



Trump stalks out on Democrats, demands end of investigations

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump abruptly stalked out of a White House meeting with congressional leaders Wednesday, flatly declaring he would no longer work with Democrats unless they drop all investigations in the aftermath of the special counsel's Trump-Russia report.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called it all "very, very, very strange" and said she was praying for Trump and the nation. Trump

tweeted his thanks for her prayers but said he would not proceed down two tracks — investigation and legislation.

Democrats said his ultimatum seemed scripted, with signs declaring his innocence already prepared for his outdoor remarks that followed. Yet Trump's unease with congressional oversight and talk of what he called the "i-word" — impeachment — now threatens to deprive him of legislative accomplishments for the remainder of his term.

Continued on Next Page



President Donald Trump delivers a statement in the Rose Garden of the White House, Wednesday, May 22, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

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TRUMP

Continued from Front

The scene playing out live on television was reminiscent of earlier ones at the White House, including during the federal government shutdown, when Trump walked out on Democrats. While this standoff could benefit him politically in the short term, with his tough talk stirring up supporters, it leaves his trade deals, a new budget and other goals in jeopardy as he heads into a re-election campaign. Democrats called it another Trump temper tantrum.

"I want to do infrastructure," Trump said he told Pelosi and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, noting the scheduled topic of the meeting.

"But you know what? We can't do it under these circumstances," he said he told them. "So get these phony investigations over." Without ever shaking anyone's hand, or even taking a seat, Trump turned and left the three-minute meeting. He strode to the Rose Garden where reporters and TV cameras had been assembled and proceeded to assail the Democrats, particularly Pelosi for



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., center, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., right, and other congressional leaders, react to a failed meeting with President Donald Trump at the White House on infrastructure, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, May 22, 2019. From left are House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., Pelosi, House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., and Schumer.

Associated Press

her comment earlier in the morning on Capitol Hill that she believed the president was engaged in a "cover-up" of the Russia probe.

"I don't do cover-ups," Trump fumed.

Back on Capitol Hill, Pelosi said Trump "just took a pass" on working on national infrastructure problems.

Flanked by Schumer and other House and Senate leaders, Pelosi said the Democrats had gone to the White House "to give this president the opportunity to have a signature in-

frastructure initiative."

The meeting had been set weeks ago, after Trump and the Democratic leaders agreed to talk further about a possible \$2 trillion infrastructure proposal. Democrats have been working with the president's daughter Ivanka, and Trump was due to provide his ideas on how to pay for it.

But he told them he couldn't engage on infrastructure because Pelosi said "something terrible," according to an administration official

and another person familiar with what happened in the room.

Democrats said they doubted he actually was ever going to put forward a plan. Schumer — who brought his own 35-page proposal to the meeting — said that when Trump "was forced to say how he would pay for it he had to run away."

What started as a challenging day for Pelosi as she tries to tamp down growing calls for an impeachment inquiry swiftly turned, with the attention going back on the president. Even some Republicans noted the shift.

"In the end we've got work to do," said Sen. John Cornyn, who called the meeting dramatic. "And I think the best thing we could do for the people we work for is to try to make progress where we can."

Earlier Wednesday, House Democrats had convened for a closed-door meeting amid Trump's stonewalling of their investigators, as a growing number of the party's lawmakers say they want to open an impeachment inquiry. They say it's not necessarily aimed at removing the president

from office but to bolster their position in court against his blocking their probes with broad claims of immunity. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York spoke up at the meeting, and some two dozen Democrats have signed on to the idea.

With her leadership team, Pelosi, who has resisted pressure to impeach, suggested patience. She pointed rank-and-file Democrats toward the legal battles that she said have already found success in forcing Trump to comply with investigations.

"We do believe it's important to follow the facts," Pelosi told reporters afterward. "We believe that no one is above the law, including the president of the United States, and we believe that the president of the United States is engaged in a cover-up."

A federal judge ruled Wednesday that the White House cannot block subpoenas for Trump's financial records from Deutsche

Bank, which has lent his real estate company millions of dollars. On Monday a federal judge also ruled against Trump in a separate financial records dispute with Congress, though his team filed a notice of appeal that is expected to keep the court battles running for months.

Pelosi said the court victories were "no surprise."

The Democrats leaving that Capitol meeting appeared to be taking hers words into consideration, even as many say the march to impeach becomes more inevitable. Tennessee Rep. Steve Cohen, who called for the impeachment inquiry on Tuesday, said he could see both sides.

Of leaders' reluctance, Cohen said "it's a political concern rather than an actual constitutional one."

Rep. Katie Hill, a freshman from a California swing district, said she is undecided on starting an impeachment inquiry but wants to let the court action play out.

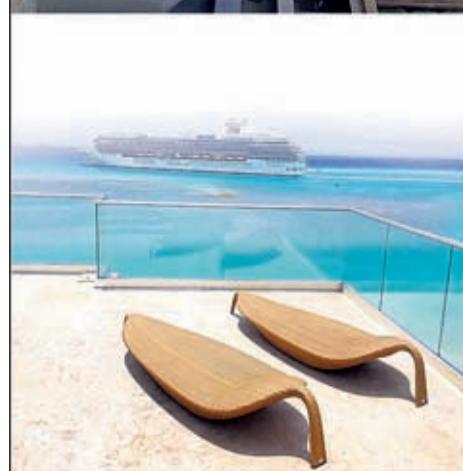
The more Trump "defies us, the more that it's becoming an inevitability," she said. But she doesn't think the Democratic caucus "is there yet."

Pelosi faces her own political calculations amid the push-pull of impeachment. While Democrats have a majority in the House, and would likely find support for starting impeachment proceedings, it could be a tighter vote than the 235-197 margin suggests. Many lawmakers come from relatively conservative districts where Trump also has support. Democrats have long said they can work on two tracks -- conducting oversight and legislating on their agenda of lower health care costs and infrastructure investment. But Trump says they can't do both.

"They can continue the Witch Hunt ... or get back to work," Trump tweeted.

Pelosi showed no signs of backing down.

"The fact is, in plain sight, in the public domain, this president is obstructing justice and he's engaged in a cover-up, and that could be impeachable," Pelosi said during an event later at the liberal Center for American Progress. □

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U.S. officials: Plan may send up to 10,000 troops to Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon on Thursday will present plans to the White House to send up to 10,000 more troops to the Middle East, in a move to beef up defenses against potential Iranian threats, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

The officials said no final decision has been made yet, and it's not clear if the White House would approve sending all or just some of the requested forces. Officials said the move is not in response to any new threat from Iran, but is aimed at reinforcing security in the region. They said the troops would be defensive forces, and the discussions include additional Patriot missile batteries, more ships and increased efforts to monitor Iran.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans have not been formally announced. Thursday morning's meeting comes as tensions with Iran continue to simmer, and it wasn't clear if a decision would be made during the session. Any move to deploy more forces to the Middle East would signal a shift for President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly emphasized the need to reduce America's troop presence in the region.

U.S. officials have provided few details about possible Iranian threats, but indicated they initially involved missiles loaded onto small Iranian boats. This week officials said the missiles have

been taken off the boats near Iran's shore, but other maritime threats continue. Sending more troops could also raise questions on Capitol Hill. During back-to-back closed briefings for the House and Senate on Tuesday, defense leaders told congressional officials the U.S. doesn't want to go to war with Iran and wants to de-escalate the situation.

Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told lawmakers the U.S. is seeking to deter, not provoke, Iran, even while accusing Tehran of threatening U.S. interests in the Mideast. Shanahan told reporters, "Our biggest focus at this point is to prevent Iranian miscalculation." Many in Congress are skeptical of the administration's approach to Iran, questioning whether it is responding to significant new Iranian threats or escalating a situation that could lead to war.

CNN first reported that the Pentagon will brief the White House on a plan that could send thousands of additional U.S. troops to the Middle East.

Air Force Col. Patrick Ryder, spokesman for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, declined to comment, saying, "As a matter of long-standing policy, we are not going to discuss or speculate on potential or alleged future operations or plans."

In early May, the U.S. ac-

celerated the deployment of an aircraft carrier strike group to the Mideast and sent four B-52 bomber aircraft to the region. The Pentagon also decided to move a Patriot air-defense missile battery to an undisclosed country in the area. The Trump administration has evacuated nonessential personnel from Iraq, amid unspecified threats the administration said are linked to Iranian-backed militias in the country.□



Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, left, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speak to members of the media after a classified briefing for members of Congress on Iran, Tuesday, May 21, 2019, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

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Research on children's health risks in doubt over EPA funds

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER

Associated Press

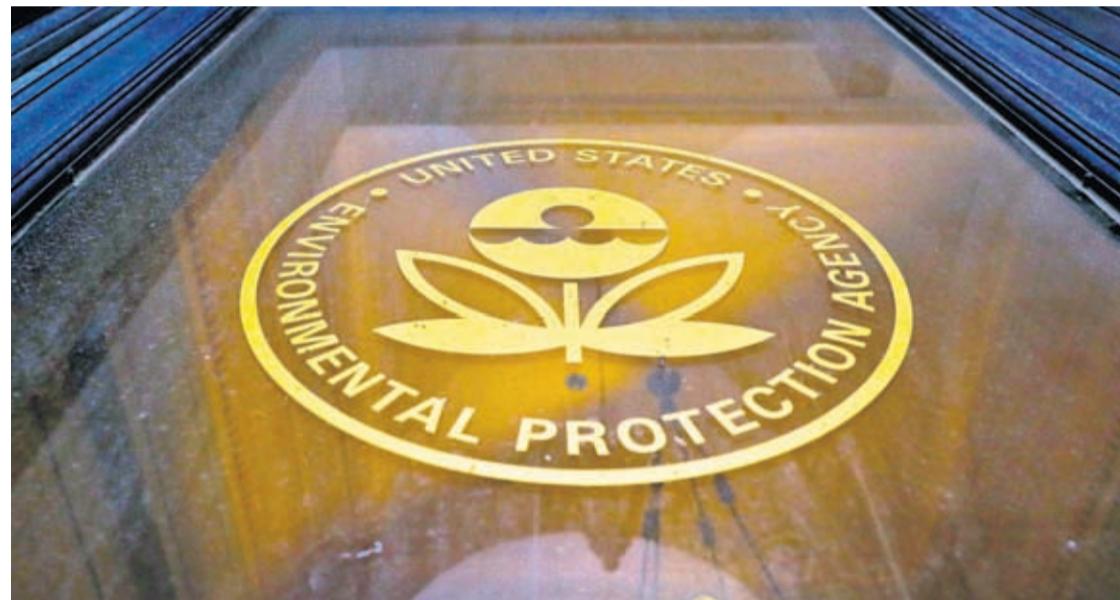
WASHINGTON (AP) — Long-running research projects credited with pivotal discoveries about the harm that pesticides, air pollution and other hazards pose to children are in jeopardy or shutting down because the Environmental Protection Agency will not commit to their continued funding, researchers say.

The projects being targeted make up a more than \$300 million, federally funded program that over the past two decades has exposed dangers to fetuses and children. Those findings have often led to increased pressure on the EPA for tighter regulations. Children's health researchers and environmental groups accuse the EPA of trying to squelch scientific studies that the agency views as running counter to the Trump administration's mission of easing regulations and promoting business.

"A lot of the centers, including mine, have identified a lot of chemicals that are associated with diseases in children," said Catherine Metayer, an epidemiologist who directs research into children's leukemia at University of California at Berkeley through the federal program.

The EPA awarded smaller than average funding for the research grants for this year, asked Congress to cut funding for it from its budget, and has refused to commit to future funding for the program.

"The EPA anticipates future



In this Sept. 21, 2017, file photo, a sign on a door of the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington.

Associated Press

funding opportunities that support EPA's high priority research topics, including children's health research," spokesman James Hewitt said, while declining to answer questions on the future for the national research projects.

Children's centers at universities around the country typically get joint funding from the EPA and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in three- and five-year packages, with most packages running out in 2018 and 2019. With no word on future funding, researchers overall "have been kind of scrambling to find a way to continue that work which is so important," said Tracey Woodruff, director of the children's center at the University of California at San Francisco.

Woodruff's federally funded work includes looking at how flame-retardant chemicals and PFAS com-

pounds — a kind of stain-resistant, nonstick industrial compound — affect the placenta during pregnancy. The Trump EPA has come under increasing pressure from states to regulate PFAS as it shows up in more water supplies around the country. With no news from the EPA on any more funding in the future, "we've been winding down for about a year" on work funded through those grants, Woodruff said.

On Tuesday, a banner across a website home page for the overall children's research declared "EPA will no longer fund children's health research." The EPA and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences have jointly funded the children's environmental health research since 1997, through grants to at least two dozen children's environmental research centers around

the country. The annual grants averaged \$15 million through 2017. In the current fiscal year, the EPA contributed \$1.6 million, agency spokeswoman Maggie Sauerhage said.

The research often involves enrolling women while they are still pregnant and then following their children for years, to study environmental exposures and their effects as children grow, said Barbara Morrissey, a toxicologist and chairwoman of the EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee.

The long-term projects often produce much stronger results overall than one-off studies do, Morrissey said. Each children's center funded by the grants also works to spread information about environmental threats to local health workers and to families. The institute is under the National Institutes of Health, which has numerous other

children's environmental research studies underway but said with the EPA joint program left hanging, it was considering a new program to put lessons learned about pediatric risks into practice in communities.

EPA's funding for the grants comes from the agency's Science To Achieve Results, or STAR, program for research into environmental threats.

The Trump administration 2020 budget request sought to eliminate funding for the STAR grants, and sought a nearly one-third cut in the EPA's budget overall.

A House Appropriations subcommittee released its own budget proposal Tuesday to restore funding for the STAR grants and boost the agency's overall budget from last year by 8%, rejecting the administration's requests for cuts.

EPA spokespersons did not respond when asked why the EPA had asked Congress to end funding for the grant program, and whether the agency would commit to continuing the children's health research if Congress overrides the EPA and restores funding for the grants, as expected.

The science journal Nature first reported funding concerns for the program.

In a statement Tuesday, Ken Cook of the Environmental Working Group said "crippling research to protect children's health, while bowing to the agenda of the chemical industry, is the calling card of the EPA in the Trump administration." □

Michael Avenatti charged with defrauding Stormy Daniels

By JIM MUSTIAN and LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Avenatti, the attorney who rocketed to fame through his representation of porn star Stormy Daniels in her battles with President Donald Trump, was charged Wednesday with ripping her off.

Federal prosecutors in New York City say Avenatti used a doctored document to divert about \$300,000 that Daniels was supposed to get from a book deal, then used the money for personal and business expenses. Only half of that money was paid back, prosecutors said.

Daniels isn't named in the court filing, but the details of the case, including the date her book was released, make it clear that she is the client involved. Avenatti denied the allegations on Twitter.

"No monies relating to Ms. Daniels were ever misappropriated or mishandled. She received millions of dollars worth of legal services and we spent huge sums in expenses. She directly paid only \$100.00 for all that she received. I look forward to a jury hearing the evidence," he wrote.

Avenatti added in a later tweet that his agreement for representing Daniels "included a percentage of any book proceeds."

The charges pile on top of previous allegations of legal misconduct by Avenatti, who represented Daniels when she sued to be released from a nondisclosure agreement involving an alleged tryst with Trump. The president denies an affair took place.

Avenatti was previously charged in New York with trying to extort up to \$25 million from Nike by threatening to expose claims that the shoemaker paid off high school basketball players to steer them to Nike-sponsored colleges. And in Los Angeles, he's facing a multicount federal

indictment alleging that he stole millions of dollars from clients, didn't pay taxes, committed bank fraud and lied during bankruptcy proceedings.

Avenatti has denied the allegations against him on both coasts, saying he expects to be exonerated. The Los Angeles charges alone carry a potential penalty of more than 300 years in prison.

"I look forward to a jury hearing all of the evidence and passing judgment on my conduct," Avenatti wrote in a text message to The Associated Press.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, initially hired Avenatti to handle a lawsuit she filed last year in which she sought to invalidate the nondisclosure agreement she'd signed with Trump's then-lawyer Michael Cohen in exchange for \$130,000.

The money was supposed to buy her silence during Trump's run for president about an alleged affair between the two. In August, Cohen pleaded guilty to violating campaign finance laws in connection with the payment.

In announcing the new charges Wednesday, prosecutors said that Avenatti sent a "fraudulent and unauthorized letter" to Daniels' literary agent, instructing the agent to send payments not to Daniels but to a bank account Avenatti controlled. They said he used the stolen funds to pay employees of his law firm and pay for hotels, airfare, dry cleaning and his Ferrari.

"Far from zealously representing his client, Avenatti, as alleged, instead engaged in outright deception and theft, victimizing rather than advocating for his client," Manhattan U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said in news release.

Avenatti "blatantly lied" and stole to maintain his "extravagant lifestyle," Berman said.

Daniels raised concerns



In this April 16, 2018 file photo, adult film actress Stormy Daniels, left, stands with her lawyer Michael Avenatti as she speaks outside federal court, in New York.

Associated Press

with Avenatti about late payments around the time her book, "Full Disclosure," was published in October, according to the indictment.

"When is the publisher going to cough up my money," she asked Avenatti in early December, according to the indictment.

Avenatti responded that he was "working them and threatening litigation," prosecutors said, but he did not tell Daniels he had already received the money.

Daniels began publicly raising concerns about Avenatti's conduct in November. In a statement, she said Avenatti had launched a fundraising effort to raise money for her legal case without telling her. She also said he had filed a defamation lawsuit

against Trump, on her behalf, against her wishes.

"For months I've asked Michael Avenatti to give me accounting information about the fund my supporters so generously donated to for my safety and legal defense. He has repeatedly ignored those requests," she said. "Days ago I demanded again, repeatedly, that he tell me how the money was being spent and how much was left. Instead of answering me, without my permission or even my knowledge Michael launched another crowdfunding campaign to raise money on my behalf. I learned about it on Twitter."

At the time, Avenatti responded that he was still Daniels' "biggest champion." □

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Rivers rising in waterlogged central U.S.; more rain to come



This image taken from video provided by KOCO-5 shows homes dangerously close to the Cimarron River on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 near Crescent, Okla. Associated Press

By KEN MILLER

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)

— Waterlogged parts of the central U.S. braced Wednesday for more rain, following days of severe storms that have battered Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma and caused at least three deaths.

Authorities urged residents of several small towns in Oklahoma and Kansas to leave their homes as rivers and streams rose. In the Missouri capital of Jefferson City, the mayor issued a mandatory evacuation for an area involving a handful of homes. The city's airport also has been evacuated. The Arkansas River was approaching historic highs, while the already high Missouri and Mississippi Rivers were again rising after a multi-day stretch of storms that produced dozens of tornadoes. Forecasters predicted parts of Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas could see more severe weather Wednesday night into Thursday.

"The biggest concern is more rain," Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt said during a news conference following an aerial tour with Tulsa Mayor G.W. Bynum and other officials Wednesday morning.

The deluge inundated roadways, closing highways in 22 Oklahoma counties and 17 Kansas counties, along with more than 330 Missouri roads. Amtrak suspended train service Wednesday and Thursday along a route between St. Louis and Kansas City because of congestion and flood-related delays.

The Arkansas River, which was just above 37 feet (11 meters), or 9 feet (2.74 meters) above flood stage, at Muskogee, Oklahoma, was expected to eventually reach 43.5 feet (13.26 meters). Officials encouraged residents in several communities along the river to leave their homes.

But Bynum, Tulsa's mayor, said his city of more than 400,000 people was safe so far.

"The levee system is working the way it's supposed to right now," he said.

Near Crescent, about 34 miles (55 kilometers) north of Oklahoma City, erosion left several homes hanging over the swollen Cimarron River. One unoccupied home rolled into the river Tuesday, and authorities say others could collapse. More than 9 inches (23 centimeters) of rain has fallen since Sunday in parts of Oklahoma after an already rainy spring.

"Any rainfall we get just continues to saturate the soils that are already saturated. Especially rivers and streams," said Oklahoma State Climatologist Gary McManus.

"There is simply nowhere for this water to go" as it flows downstream from Kansas, according to McManus.

In Kansas, residents in parts of the city of Iola, along the Neosho River, were being urged to evacuate and officials had set up an emergency shelter at a community college, said Corey

Schinstock, assistant city administrator. If the river reaches its predicted crest of 27.8 feet (8.47 meters) Thursday, it would be the second-worst flood ever for the town of about 5,400 residents.

Elsewhere, the Mississippi River was at or approaching major flood stage from Iowa through southern Missouri and Illinois. At St. Louis, the Mississippi was expected to crest Monday at nearly 12 feet (3.7 meters) above flood stage. If that holds, the Coast Guard will likely close the river to navigation for the second time this month.

Along the Missouri River, about 50 levees in Missouri could be overtopped by Saturday as high water levels move downstream, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The river was expected to crest Thursday at 36.1 feet (11 meters) near the town of Glasgow, Missouri, overtopping agricultural levees and inundating some homes, highways and park-

land.

Deaths from this week's storms include a 74-year-old woman found early Wednesday morning in Iowa. Officials there say she was killed by a possible tornado that damaged a farmstead in Adair County. Missouri authorities said heavy rain was a contributing factor in the deaths of two people in a traffic accident Tuesday near Springfield.

A fourth weather-related death may have occurred in Oklahoma, where the Highway Patrol said a woman apparently drowned after driving around a barricade Tuesday near Perkins, about 45 miles (72 kilometers) northeast of Oklahoma City. The unidentified woman's body was sent to the state medical examiner's office to confirm the cause of death. Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Keli Cain said she isn't yet listed as what would be the state's first storm-related death. □



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'American Taliban' John Walker Lindh to be released

By MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — John Walker Lindh, the young Californian who became known as the American Taliban after he was captured by U.S. forces in the invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001, is set to go free after nearly two decades in prison.

But conditions imposed recently on Lindh's release, slated for Thursday, make clear that authorities remain concerned about the threat he could pose once free.

Lindh, now 38, converted to Islam as a teenager after seeing the film "Malcolm X" and went overseas to study Arabic and the Quran. In November 2000, he went to Pakistan and from there made his way to Afghanistan. He joined the Taliban and was with them on Sept. 11, 2001, when al-Qaida terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The U.S. attacked Afghanistan after the country failed to turn over al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. Lindh was captured in a battle with Northern Alliance fighters in late 2001. He was present when a group of Taliban prisoners launched an attack that killed Johnny Micheal "Mike" Spann, a CIA officer who had been interrogating Lindh and other Taliban prisoners.

Television footage of a bearded, wounded Lindh captured among Taliban fighters created an international sensation, and he was brought to the U.S. to face charges of conspiring

to kill Spann and providing support to terrorists. Eventually, he struck a plea bargain in which he admitted illegally providing support to the Taliban but denied a role in Spann's death.

Lindh received a 20-year prison sentence. He served roughly 17 years and five months, including two months when he was in military detention. Federal inmates who exhibit good behavior typically serve 85 percent of their sentence. His probation officer asked the court to impose additional restrictions on Lindh while he remains on supervised release for the next three years. Lindh initially opposed but eventually acquiesced to the restrictions, which include monitoring software on his internet devices; requiring that his online communications be conducted in English and that he undergo mental health counseling; and forbidding him from possessing or viewing extremist material, holding a passport of any kind or leaving the U.S.

Authorities never specified their rationale for seeking such restrictions. A hearing on the issue was canceled after Lindh agreed to them. The Bureau of Prisons said Lindh rejected an interview request submitted by The Associated Press, and his lawyer declined to comment. But there have been reports that Lindh's behavior in prison has created cause for concern. Foreign Policy magazine reported in 2017 that an investigation by the National Counterterrorism Center found

that Lindh "continued to advocate for global jihad and to write and translate violent extremist texts."

A former inmate who knew Lindh from the time they spent at the same federal prison said he never heard Lindh espouse support for al-Qaida or indicate a risk for violence, but he found Lindh to be anti-social and awkward around others, with an unyielding, black-and-white view of religion. The inmate spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because he wanted to avoid further stigmatization from his time in Lindh's prison unit.

Michael Jensen, a terrorism researcher at the University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, said it's clear the government has concerns about Lindh's mindset.

"For three years he's going to be watched like a hawk," Jensen said.

He said Lindh represents an interesting test case, as he is on the leading edge of dozens of inmates who were convicted on terror-related offenses in the aftermath of Sept. 11 and are eligible for release in the next five years. He said there's little research to indicate the efficacy of de-radicalizing inmates with connections to radical Islam, but he said the research shows that recidivism rates for those connected to white supremacy and other forms of extremism are high.

Lindh has been housed in Terre Haute, Indiana, with other Muslim inmates convicted on terror-related

charges. The rationale was to keep those inmates from radicalizing others in the general prison population, Jensen said. Those inside the unit were supposed to be limited in their ability to communicate with each other.

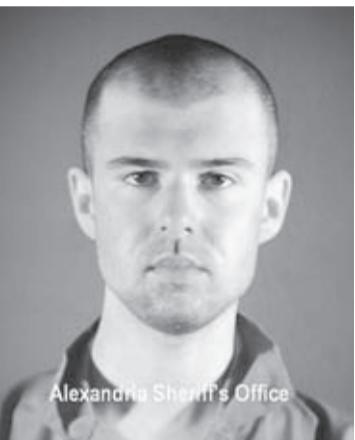
"But the reality is these guys still talk to each other," he said.

Lindh, for his part, admitted his role and his wrongdoing in supporting the Taliban, but he and his family have bristled at any notion that he should be considered a terrorist. When he was sentenced, Lindh said he never would have joined the Taliban if he fully understood what they were about. He also issued a short essay condemning acts of violence in the name of Islam that kill or harm innocent civilians.

Lindh's time in prison has provided only a few clues about his current outlook.

He filed multiple lawsuits, which were largely successful, challenging prison rules he found discriminatory against Muslims. In the more recent lawsuits, he used the name Yahya Lindh. One lawsuit won the right to pray in groups at the prison in Terre Haute. A second lawsuit reversed a policy requiring strip searches for inmates receiving visitors, and a third won the right to wear prison pants above the ankle, which Lindh said is in accordance with Islamic principles.

In the strip-search lawsuit, Lindh offered a discussion of Islamic rules prohibiting exposure of the body. If he's compelled to reveal



Alexandria Sheriff's Office

This January 2002 photo provided by the Alexandria Sheriff's Office in Alexandria, Va., shows John Walker Lindh.

Associated Press

himself, he said, he's also compelled under his religion to fight the rules requiring him to sin.

Some have criticized Lindh's pending release. In March, the legislature in Alabama, where Spann grew up, adopted a resolution calling it "an insult" to Spann's "heroic legacy and his remaining family members."

In addition, Republican Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby and Democratic New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan wrote a letter last week to the Bureau of Prisons expressing concern.

"We must consider the security and safety implications for our citizens and communities who will receive individuals like John Walker Lindh who continue to openly call for extremist violence," they wrote.

On Monday, Spann's father, Johnny Spann, wrote a letter requesting that Lindh be investigated before he's released, citing the National Counterterrorism Center's investigation as his rationale for concern. □

Fake news changes shape as EU heads into elections

By KELVIN CHAN

LORNE COOK

ARITZ PARRA

LONDON (AP) — Fake news has evolved beyond the playbook used by Russian trolls in the U.S. election. As the European Union gears up for a crucial election, it is mostly homegrown groups rather than foreign powers that are taking to social media to push false information and extremist messages, experts say.

And private and encrypted chat apps like WhatsApp are increasingly the favored platforms to spread false information, making it harder to monitor and fight. There were worries that the bloc's May 23-26 vote for the EU parliament would be a ripe target for foreign meddling, given Russian interference in the 2016 ballot that brought U.S. President Donald Trump to power and allegations of disinformation — plus a lack of solid facts — surrounding Britain's Brexit referendum that same year.

So far, no spike has appeared on the 28-nation bloc's disinformation radars and tech companies say they haven't found signs of a coordinated operation by foreign actors. There is, though, a constant buzz of false information that mainly seeks to erode the EU's image and that has ground on since the last Europe-wide elections in 2014.

"Previous, it was broadly about Russia, fake news and looking for bots. Now what we see is the transnational Far Right deploying that digital toolkit, less fake news, more hate-speech, and a more complex set of tactics to amplify populist narratives," said Sasha Havlicek, CEO of the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a London-based left leaning think tank. "That isn't to say that there is no Russian activity but that it's harder to identify definitively."

The trend now is for populist and far right groups in Europe to "manipulate information" through more nuanced messages, to promote anti-migration, anti-gay and climate denial themes. This "narrative



In this May 9, 2011 file photo, EU flags fly outside the European Commission headquarters in Brussels.

Associated Press

warfare" is much harder for governments and tech companies to react to, she said. Adding to the confusion, some world leaders have themselves been guilty of spreading false or misleading information on social media.

Online campaign group Avaaz said Wednesday it found 500 suspect Facebook pages and groups in Germany, Britain, France, Spain, Italy and Poland spreading fake news seen 533 million times in the past three months. Facebook has taken down 77 of the pages, some of which Avaaz had previously announced.

One of the pages taken down, supporting Italy's right-wing League party, had shared a video purporting to show African migrants smashing a police car that had racked up 10 million views. But it was actually a scene from a film and had been already debunked several times over the years, Avaaz said.

Christoph Schott, campaign director at Avaaz, says that fake news is often amplified with "bait and switch" tactics like building up an audience for a page on a generic topic such as football or cooking, then ramping up political agen-

das. The aim is to sow "little seeds of distrust ... to slowly erode trust in institutions and divide people over a longer period of time," said Schott. Facebook said that after Avaaz shared its research, it removed a number of fake and duplicate accounts for violating its "authenticity policies" and took action against some pages that repeatedly posted misinformation.

Tech companies have stepped up broader efforts to fight fake news. Facebook has set up an EU election "war room" in Dublin, staffed by data scientists, researchers and threat intelligence specialists working with teams in California to monitor for abuse around the clock.

Facebook's vice president for public policy in Europe, Richard Allan, said this month the company hasn't detected any major attacks.

"Part of that, we hope, is because we put in a lot of preventive measures," he said. "We've gotten better at fake account detection and removal."

Twitter, which launched a tool for EU users to report deliberately misleading election-related content, also says it hasn't seen any

coordinated malicious activity.

The two social media companies, along with Google, have tightened up requirements for taking out political ads, including confirming identities of ad buyers. They're putting all political ads into publicly searchable databases, although researchers say they don't give a comprehensive view and the ads aren't always properly classified.

The nature of European elections may be a factor in behind why they haven't been targeted. For one thing, turnout is usually low. Around 42 percent of voters cast their ballots in 2014. Beyond that, Europe's citizens often use the EU elections to cast protest votes about issues of domestic concern.

Around 400 million people in 28 countries are eligible to vote in the world's biggest transnational elections, choosing 751 representatives to the European Parliament, the EU's only democratically elected institution.

"The European elections are still basically 28 different national campaigns, fought mostly on national issues," said policy analyst Paul Butcher at the European Policy Centre think-tank.

"Each country has got its own political priorities; the campaigns will be quite different in different places."

But it could also be a matter of not looking in the right place. Oxford University researchers studying tweets related to the EU elections found that only a small fraction came from Russian or "junk news" sources while mainstream news stories dominated.

However, some junk news stories can be several times more popular than those from professional media organizations, with the most successful centered on populist themes such as anti-immigration and Islamophobia while few attacked European leaders and parties or voiced skepticism about the EU, according to the researchers, who compiled about 585,000 tweets in seven European languages.

"Almost none of the junk we found circulating online came from known Russian sources," said Nahema Marchal, a researcher at the Oxford Internet Institute. "Instead, it is homegrown, hyper-partisan and alternative media that dominate."

It's also become harder to keep track of disinformation as more online conversations go private, said Clara Jiménez Cruz, co-founder of Spanish fact-checking group Maldita.es. Twitter posts or public Facebook feeds are only part of the story, with many messages and discussions now moving to private Facebook groups or encrypted WhatsApp and Telegram chats, which EU and national governments can't easily monitor, she said.

Avaaz said in a report that millions of potential Spanish voters were flooded with false, misleading, racist or hateful posts on WhatsApp ahead of national elections last month.

On WhatsApp, where it's so hard for outsiders to peer into private conversations to debunk lies, "that is where we find most of the hoaxes," said Jiménez. "And especially where we find them first." □

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Ukraine's parliament snubs new president on election law

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
EFREM LUKATSKY
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian lawmakers on Wednesday turned down the new president's proposal to amend the election law in a blow to his hopes to get more of his supporters into parliament.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy, a 41-year-old comedian who won 73% of the presidential vote last month, dissolved parliament on Tuesday, saying that current lawmakers were too focused on self-enrichment and lacked public trust.

Zelenskiy, who became famous for playing the role of a Ukrainian president in a popular TV sitcom, was gambling that his popularity will allow his party to make a successful showing



Oleh Lyashko, leader of Ukraine's Radical Party, center, speaks to lawmakers during a parliament session in Kiev, Ukraine, Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Associated Press

in the parliamentary vote set for July 21.

His landslide victory reflected Ukrainians' exasperation

with the country's economic woes and rampant corruption.

Zelenskiy proposed chang-

es to the electoral law to have the next parliament elected entirely on party lists, arguing that the cur-

rent system in which part of the legislature is elected in single-ballot races fosters graft.

But lawmakers refused to consider Zelenskiy's proposal. Former President Petro Poroshenko's allies favor the current election system, hoping that it will help them keep their seats.

Zelenskiy criticized his foes and urged voters to elect a new generation of politicians.

"The old politicians chose the old system because it gives them a chance to extend their political existence," he said on Facebook. "They hope to sneak back into the Verkhovna Rada, but I'm sure they are mistaken and you will elect the new politicians capable of changing the country in deeds, not words." □

Polish bishops admit they haven't done enough to stop abuse

By VANESSA GERA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's bishops acknowledged on Wednesday that they have not done enough to prevent clerical abuse of minors and said there are "no words" to describe their shame about sex scandals involving priests.

The acknowledgement came as Poland, where Catholic traditions and faith remain strong, is grappling with the problem of abuse in the church. Massive soul searching was triggered by a documentary, "Tell No One," that includes testimony by victims, priests who admit their wrongdoing and evidence that the

church — even recently — moved abusers from parish to parish and let them have contact with children.

"There are no words to express our shame because of sexual scandals involving clerics," the Polish Bishops' Conference said in a statement, a message that is to be read out in all churches on Sunday.

The scandals "are calling for a full condemnation and for severe consequences to be drawn toward the criminals and persons covering up such actions," the message says.

"We admit that as shepherds of the Church, we did not do everything to prevent harm," it adds.

The head of Poland's Cath-

olic church, Archbishop Wojciech Polak, told reporters in Warsaw that the bishops also began work on a "systemic" response to the problem of abuse by some clergy and to the cases exposed in the documentary.

He credited the documentary with prompting the new action. "The film, taking into consideration the perspective of the victims, made us aware of the enormity of their suffering," the bishops said in their statement.

The response will include building a professional system of reporting cases of abuse and offering victims legal and psychological counselling. □



In this Thursday, March 14, 2019 photo the head of Poland's Catholic Church Archbishop Wojciech Polak, right, addresses the media during a news conference in Warsaw, Poland, in which the church revealed it has recorded cases of 382 priests abusing minors since 1990.

Associated Press

Fighting rages after Syria rebels retake northwest village

By SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian opposition fighters said Wednesday they recaptured a village on the edge of their stronghold in northwest Syria that had been seized two weeks earlier by government forces in an offensive that wrecked a months-old cease-fire in the densely populated area.

State TV Al-Ikhbariya later reported that government troops were in intense clashes with the insurgents inside the village, in what appeared to be an attempt by the Syrian army to wrestle back control of Kfar Nabuda.

The capture of Kfar Nabuda by government forces on May 8 was the most serious challenge to the cease-fire in Idlib province and surrounding areas negotiated by Russia and Turkey in September. It was the first ground advance by government forces on



This photo provided Tuesday, May 21, 2019 by the Syrian Civil Defense group known as the White Helmets, shows smoke rising after Syrian government forces targeted the town of al-Habeet, in Idlib province, Syria.

Associated Press

the rebel stronghold, home to 3 million people, since the cease-fire averted an earlier offensive.

The area is among the last outside President Bashar

Assad's control — and the last area still held by anti-government rebels in the country's eight-year civil war.

Naji al-Mustafa, a spokes-

man for the opposition fighters, said they regained control of the village on Wednesday following an overnight counteroffensive. He said they aim to re-

gain control of all the areas seized by the government over the last two weeks.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed government forces were repelled from Kfar Nabuda, adding there were clashes on the outskirts.

The rebel advance was met with intense government and Russian airstrikes on the enclave. The Observatory said at least 18 were killed since late Tuesday in strikes on four villages and towns, including 12 in an airstrike on a market in Maaret al-Numan. Syrian first responders, the White Helmets, put the death toll in the market airstrike at nine.

In Turkey's capital, Ankara, Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said talks with Russia to contain the violence were ongoing.

"We have told (the Russians) the (Syrian) regime must be controlled. The regime's attacks must be stopped," Akar said. □

Iran supreme leader criticizes politicians amid US tensions

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's supreme leader publicly chastised the country's moderate president and foreign minister Wednesday, saying he disagreed with the implementation of the 2015 nuclear deal they had negotiated with world powers.

The extraordinary comments by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the first time he's criticized both politicians by name, came amid tensions with the United States a year after Washington's withdrawal from the accord.

Khamenei has final say on all matters of state, and his blaming the deal's unraveling limits the influence of President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif — relative moderates within Iran's Shiite theocracy who had struck the deal.

It also shows the growing power of hard-liners.

The White House earlier this month sent an aircraft car-



In this Monday, May 20, 2019 photo, released by U.S. Navy, an F/A-18E Super Hornet from the "Jolly Rogers" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 103 launches from the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) on Arabian Sea.

Associated Press

rier and B-52 bombers to the region over a still-unexplained threat it perceived from Iran. Since that development,

Iran has announced it will back away from the atomic accord. The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, alleged that four oil tank-

ers were sabotaged off its coast, and Iranian-aligned rebels in Yemen have launched drone attacks into Saudi Arabia. □

Both Washington and Tehran have said they want to ease heightened tensions in the region in recent days. But many fear a miscalculation between the two countries, who have a 40-year history of mistrust, could escalate the situation.

Khamenei made the comments before hard-line students gathered to hear a Ramadan lecture. The remarks come as hard-liners for years have criticized the accord for giving too much away from the West.

Khamenei had given his implicit stamp of approval on the deal, which when signed sparked spontaneous celebration across Iran. The accord saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of crippling economic sanctions.

But the deal has unraveled after Trump's withdrawal, with the U.S. re-imposing old sanctions and coming up with even stricter new ones. □



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South Africa's Ramaphosa starts crackdown on corruption

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South African President-elect Cyril Ramaphosa has taken steps to crack down on corruption Wednesday as the country's new parliament voted him to lead the country for a five-year term.

South Africa's lawmakers were sworn into the legislative body in Cape Town following elections earlier this month in which Ramaphosa's ruling African National Congress party won a 57.5% majority. They then elected Ramaphosa.

In a sign that Ramaphosa is following up on his campaign promises to rid his party and government of corruption, the country's current deputy presi-



South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa acknowledges members of parliament in Cape Town, South Africa, Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Associated Press

dent, David Mabuza, was not sworn into parliament Wednesday.

Ramaphosa announced that Mabuza's investiture to parliament was delayed because of an incriminating report on him by the ANC's Integrity Commission,

which alleges he brought the party into disrepute. The commission probes allegations of wrongdoing within the party and maintains that ANC leaders should step down from leadership positions while facing disciplinary proceedings.

Other notable ANC leaders not sworn into parliament include two former Cabinet ministers Nomvula Mokonyane and Malusi Gigaba. They have both been implicated by whistleblowers at a government commission probing allegations of graft during former president Jacob Zuma's term of office.

"We will have a government that is accountable," said Ramaphosa, accepting his election in parliament. □

Duterte moves to forcibly send garbage back to Canada

By JIM GOMEZ
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has moved to have truckloads of garbage that Filipino officials say were illegally shipped to the Philippines years ago be forcibly shipped back to Canada, Duterte's spokesman said Wednesday.

Canadian Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said later that the trash will be back on Canadian soil before the end of June. McKenna said the government has awarded a contract to a shipping company, Bollore Logistics Canada, that will return 69 containers filled with household waste and electronic garbage.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo earlier held a news conference to announce that Duterte has ordered officials to look for a private shipping company



Environmentalists march outside the Canadian Embassy to demand the Canadian government to speed up the removal of several containers of garbage that were shipped to the country Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in Manila, Philippines.

Associated Press

to transport the garbage to Canadian territory in an escalation of his increasingly

adversarial stance. The Philippines will shoulder the cost of the garbage ship-

ment, Panelo said. "If Canada will not accept their trash, we will leave

the same within its territorial waters or 12 nautical miles out to sea from the baseline of any of their country's shores," Panelo said. "The president's stance is as principled as it is uncompromising: The Philippines as an independent sovereign nation must not be treated as trash by other foreign nations."

The Philippine government recalled its ambassador and consuls in Canada last week over Ottawa's failure to comply with a May 15 deadline to take back the garbage.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said last week that Canada has been working hard with Philippine officials and hopes to strike a resolution shortly but did not specify a time frame.

In 2017, Trudeau said legal issues preventing the return of the garbage to Canada had been resolved. □

Nonprofits turn to cryptocurrency to help needy Venezuelans

By MANUEL RUEDA

Associated Press

BARQUISIMETO, Venezuela (AP) — Andreina Cordero started the year skipping meals so her three kids could eat. Her husband, a construction worker, was out of a job. And the family's savings had been devastated by the nation's hyperinflation, limiting Cordero's children to a diet of rice, beans, pasta and fried corn patties.

But the family got a break from their daily struggle to feed themselves this spring when a social worker enrolled them in a program run by a Silicon Valley startup that is donating cryptocurrency to hundreds of Venezuelan families.

Every week from February to April, Cordero received a deposit of EOS tokens through a cellphone app. She then traded the digital money for local currency through online transfers and used the funds to shop in market stalls.

"We finally got to eat chicken" Cordero said. "And there were also vegetables for the kids."

The three-month trial in crypto transfers is now over, and the family is back to skipping meals and eating mostly beans and rice. But Cordero is thankful for the time that digital currency saved her kids from malnutrition.

"I'm very grateful for what they did for us" Cordero said. "It would be a blessing if something like that were set up again."

Over the past decade, cryptocurrencies like EOS and bitcoin have become popular among investors looking to make large profits from a new and anonymous form of storing wealth.

But a handful of charities are also now using digital currencies to send relief directly to those in need, circumventing banks and companies that handle remittances. They've found the ideal testing ground in Venezuela, where the annual inflation rate by some estimates has soared to a staggering 67,000%, forcing millions to scavenge daily



In this April 11, 2019 photo, customers choose groceries that will be paid using cryptocurrency in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, Thursday, April 11, 2019.

Associated Press

to feed themselves.

"Crypto has the highest likelihood of being helpful to people in places where money is broken" said Joe Waltman, executive director of GiveCrypto, the charity that provided direct transfers to Cordero and more than 100 Venezuelan families in Barquisimeto with the aid of EOS Venezuela, a local blockchain developer. "And there's probably no better example of broken money right now than Venezuela."

GiveCrypto's program provided temporary help to vulnerable families by providing them with a weekly deposit worth around \$7 — or about the same as Venezuela's monthly minimum wage. The organization is also aiming to make people familiar with crypto apps so they can transfer their own earnings into digital currency and use it to buy goods, long after they have stopped receiving free deposits.

"We want to show that people who are not techies or investors can also benefit from this technology," said Efrain Pineda, the project's manager and head of operations at EOS Venezuela. "Anyone can use crypto to protect themselves from inflation and make their daily life easier."

While many middle-class

Venezuelans already try to protect their savings from hyperinflation by purchasing U.S. dollars and even gold nuggets, saving in crypto offers a solution to store wealth that may be physically safer than holding on to cash or precious metals in a crime-infested country. Online platforms that allow Venezuelans to buy and hold U.S. dollars provide a similar service.

Storing cryptocurrency presents greater financial risks than holding U.S. dollars, though, due to the wild swings in the value of some crypto assets, including bitcoin. But in Venezuela, where the local bolivar currency has lost two-thirds of its value this year, some merchants are willing to give this technology a shot. In Barquisimeto, Leticia Luque, an informal merchant, said she began to accept crypto payments two months ago at the request of a social worker collaborating with GiveCrypto's direct transfer scheme. She said the technology has helped her gain time to barter for better prices with suppliers and plan what she will buy next.

"We used to be in a rush to purchase goods before our bolivars lost their value" said Luque, whose husband travels every week to Colombia to stock up on

packaged foods and basic goods that the couple resells out of their home. "Now we can take our time and we know that our earnings are in a safe place."

Waltman said the Barquisimeto experiment was the first stage of a larger effort to promote the use of cryptocurrency in Venezuela, using "stable" currencies whose values have less fluctuation than bitcoin.

A similar initiative, known as an "airdrop," is being developed by AirTM, a currency exchange platform based in Mexico City that plans to donate small amounts of cryptocurrency to 100,000 people in Venezuela this summer. So far, it has raised \$300,000 from donations toward its \$1 million goal.

The one-time payment of no more than \$10 a person will provide only momentary relief. But the goal is also to encourage Venezuelans to engage with the AirTM platform.

"We want to show Venezuelans how to hold money outside their local currency," said Joshua Kliot, the organization's co-founder. "The biggest impact this could have is to crypto-ize the country."

And it's not just in Venezuela where nonprofits are attempting to help vulnerable people by introducing them to digital cur-

rency platforms. In Europe, Bitnation, a humanitarian agency, has enabled hundreds of refugees without bank accounts to receive direct donations through bitcoin accounts. In Jordan the World Food Program delivers aid to 100,000 Syrian refugees by creating digital currency accounts for each recipient, using blockchain technology but official currencies. To pay for goods, refugees only need to have their iris scanned in participating stores.

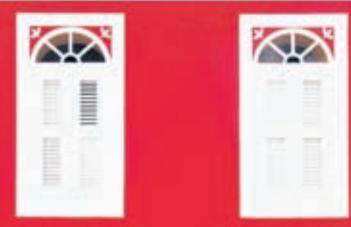
Paul Lamb, a nonprofit management consultant based in California, says the idea of distributing funding directly to people in need is becoming increasingly popular among humanitarian groups, because in some contexts it is cheaper than organizing the logistics required to physically hand out food or medicine. Usually these money transfers are made through debit cards in the local currency. But humanitarian groups are also starting to look at cryptocurrency.

"It's harder for someone to steal cryptocurrency," said Hugh Aprile, the Colombia country director for Mercy Corps, a nonprofit that has handed out debit cards to 7,000 Venezuelan refugees. "And in situations where you have high inflation, it can ensure the stability of the funds being transferred."

But aid programs that distribute cryptocurrency also face several challenges.

In Venezuela, power cuts, like the one that recently left much of the country in the dark for days, knock out the internet connection needed to use cryptocurrency. And connections for many are iffy even when there is power. A tightly controlled currency system that punishes financial crimes with jail time has also discouraged some merchants from accepting cryptocurrency. "Merchants who accept crypto and are public about it risk being inspected by the government," said Randy Brito, the founder of Bitcoin Venezuela, a cryptocurrency education group. □

LOCAL



Bohemian Restaurant: Tonight live Violinist Angela



PALM BEACH — Avant-garde from France, non-conformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about. Bohemian Restaurant is different, unconventional and a rebel with a cause. The cause is to make you feel king in this hidden garden with outstanding dishes that connect you to the European liaisons of Aruba. Tonight has an extra magic: the live Violinist Angela performs! From traditional French and Italian famous melodies to more upbeat pop and rock and roll. A taste for everyone.

A garden full of strong trees and dressed up in New York-style industrial-look elements creates

a cosmopolitan vibe while at the same time the tropical breeze and outside dining connect to the Caribbean. Waiters with French barrettes and pant suspenders service you with a happy and loose style with on the background the sounds of underground chill music varied with French classics.

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We Connect is All About our Young Professionals

ORANJESTAD — The University of Aruba together with the foundation We Connect organize a seminar about connecting with young Arubans professionals. The goal is to make it appealing to them to come back to the island for the start or continuation of their career.

The idea is to contact with Arubans living in for example The Netherlands and other countries to find a mutual agreement on returning to the island. The purpose of the seminar is to find a way to bring those who are interested back to have them support their country and proceed their career here. Patrick Brown, treasurer of the foundation, explains that the initial trigger to raise the foundation was the notified gap between the labor market and the young professionals abroad. The foundation functions as an intermediate to decrease this distance.

The seminar will present a panel that will discuss different themes like education within the island, studies abroad and the needs of the local economy of Aruban pro-



fessionals. The question is whether the study that is chosen to do for example in The Netherlands matches with the needs of the local economy. Often students choose a study abroad and experience meanwhile this was not the right choice. They change studies and might get confused what they can do with it. The need for better guidance is evident as well as the match making between education and eventual career on the island. "In the modern world it is not always that necessary to have that certain study but more that certain level. The employer will value the study and diploma but several

studies may be adequate to fulfill the position", says Brown.

Overall it is important to acknowledge that 'island children' have a great value for the local labor market, according to Brown. "They know the culture, the language and the people. For the employer an Aruban employee is easier to hire because there is no need for a work permit." There is another side to the medal. What happens in the case of lack of experience? Will the employer rather choose an Aruban with less experience than a foreigner with the necessary experience, only because of the fact

that she or he is Aruban? What will be the consequences of that? Another aspect to consider is when Arubans have been staying for 5 to 10 years in another country they got adapted to that system, making it harder to come back.

All these questions will be treated in the seminar, being assured of the fact that there is a group of Arubans that is willing to come back and contribute to their island. The labor market needs more flexibility, like parttime work, flexible working hours and salary structure to acquire an attractive position in the labor market for young professionals, is the conclusion of the foundation.

All young professionals are welcome to join in the dialogue and share their experiences, as also any other who is interested in the topic. The seminar is free and registration is possible on the website of the university. □

Facebook: University of Aruba.
Website: www.ua.aw.

Soul Beach Music Festival launches Epic Concerts by Superstars



ORANJESTAD — It's a golden time of day when music lovers come out to play at The 19th Annual Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba featuring cosmic proportions of soulful sun with lit performances by John Legend, Charlie Wilson, Ella Mai, H.E.R., the comedic brilliance of Deon Cole and Aida Rodriguez delivering serious star power to the stage Memorial Day weekend, May 22-27, 2019.

Friday: May 24, COMEDY: DEON COLE, Aida Rodriguez, Host - Rudy Rush

Saturday: May 25, MUSIC: CHARLIE WILSON, H.E.R., Host - Doug E. Fresh

Sunday: May 26, MUSIC: JOHN LEGEND, Ella Mai, Host - Doug E. Fresh

"We are thrilled to welcome visitors and locals to The Soul Beach Music Festival on the One Happy Island for the 19th edition," said Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes, CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA). "Bringing top musical artists and comedians together during the next five days is exciting as they will also get to discover Aruba's culture and pristine beaches."

Take your destination to the next level with Aruba's intimate ambi-

ence and larger than life hospitality. Like no other place on earth, Aruba is a natural oasis for timeless beginnings and endless happiness at the same time showcasing a coastal mindset of latitude by offering the perfect mix to play, relax and soar. Travelers will appreciate the exquisite dining, pampering spas, sophisticated shopping, expansive adventure, ultra-chic nightlife, and the stunning beauty of Aruba's cosmopolitan swagger. Basking in the trifecta of a visually breathtaking atmosphere and a three-in-one experience featuring live music performances, comedy shows and beach parties, the Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba, previously named #4 by USA Today readers' choice "10 Best Caribbean Celebrations" and #1 "Caribbean Summer Festival" by Jetsetter Magazine, boasts a truly unique and unforgettable event. Thousands of festival goers are amped up and ready for Aruba's ultra-chic paradise and music overload in the most amazing way possible.

"We are super excited for this year's edition of Soul Beach. Social Media has been buzzing about this combination of artists, and travelers are coming early and staying late. We have to thank Aruba and all of our partners for making this year's celebration the perfect setting for a lifetime of memories. Can't wait to see you and the Soul Beach Fam in Aruba," said Mark Adkins, Executive Producer of Soul Beach Festival Productions.

Ready, Set, Glow and splash into low-key cool day parties pumping up the sounds beachside with a complimentary extra dose of H2O and Aruba's sunshine. Soul Beach Music Festival Hosted by Aruba takes it to the beach and beyond evoking nostalgic after notes sure to get the adrenaline pumping



into the night with exclusive music by a host of iconic faces featuring DJ Jazzy Jeff, DJ Kid Capri, DJ Envy, DJ Frank Ski, DJ E-Clazz, DJ Diablo, DJ Mars and DJ Outkast producing paradisiac beats as rockin' as the talent on the main stage. Surf the airwaves and get into the groove at Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino – Poolside with Rudy Rush Hour live radio broadcast - Smooth 105.7 Dallas.

It gets even better. Make your own schedule while in Aruba by downloading the Soul Beach Music Festival App on Android or iTunes. You can co-ordinate with your friends on festival happenings and view a map of the island hot spots and hotels. Get the up to minute details on the day parties, concert tickets, partner and sponsor offerings and much more!

Android: Soul Beach Music Festival Productions

iPhone: Soul Beach Music Festival Productions

Friday: May 24, COMEDY: DEON COLE, Aida Rodriguez, Host - Rudy Rush

Deon Cole - He first got into comedy when a friend bet him \$50 that he would not get up on stage one night in Chicago. His career has taken off ever since. He's a writer on Conan and countless other programs, including sitcoms and TV specials. Most recently, this writer, actor, and comedian is best known for his roles on Black-

ish , Grownish, and Angie Tribeca. He also had roles in All About the Washingtons, Barbershop, and Barbershop: The Next Cut, and has performed stand up on Comedy Central and Netflix. He's bringing the laughs to the Soul Beach audience this year at #SBMF19!! It's @DeonCole !!! #comedy #aruba#musicfestival

Aida Rodriguez - It's funny lady, actress, producer, and writer @funnyaida representing for the #womenofcomedy and coming to the #soulbeachmusicfestival stage.

Saturday: May 25, MUSIC: CHARLIE WILSON, H.E.R., Host - Doug E. Fresh

The National Museum of African American Music, (Nashville) honored Mr. Charlie Wilson with their Rhapsody & Rhythm Award at their Legends Celebration. Coinciding with the release of his album, In It To Win It, Wilson's national U.S. tour sold out arenas around the country. As a tribute to his 23 years of sobriety, helping homeless addicts and educating the African American community about prostate cancer, Wilson was honored at the 2018 NAACP Image Awards with the first ever Music Makes A Difference Award. Brace yourself for Charlie last name Wilson's sensational performance. #CharlieWilson #Aruba #SBMF19



Continued on Page 15

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Soul Beach Music Festival launches Epic Concerts by Superstars

Copntinued from Page 14

H.E.R. - She was born in Vallejo, California as Gabriella Wilson. She competed on Radio Disney's "The Next Big Thing" at age 12 and has proven to be just that. She signed to RCA at age 14, and later went on to tour with Bryson Tiller. She headlined The Lights On and I Used to Know H.E.R. Tours! We've got two-time 2019 #GrammyAward Winner, H.E.R joining us in #Aruba!! #SBMF19

Sunday: May 26, MUSIC : JOHN LEGEND, Ella Mai, Host - Doug E. Fresh

John Legend - Legend's work has garnered him an Emmy Award, Grammy Awards, an Academy Award (Oscar), a Golden Globe Award, and a Tony Award, making him the youngest ever to achieve EGOT status, among other multiple awards. Throughout his career, Legend has worked to make a difference in the lives of others noted with the Show Me Campaign (ShowMeCampaign.org), an initiative he launched

(one of many humanitarian efforts graced with his passion) that focuses on education as a key to break the cycle of poverty. We are so excited to have him at this year's Soul Beach Music Festival in Aruba!! #JohnLegend #musicfestival#aruba

Ella Mai - Admit it. Boo'd Up is super catchy and you caught yourself hooked on the song, just like Trip, and her latest, Shot Clock. London born @EllaMai is just getting started. Her world tour is in full swing and we're so here for it!! Let's put the good vibes out to celebrate this #SBMF19 superstar and her two 2019 #Grammy-Award wins!

For information about ticket sales, accommodations and the latest updates sign up for CLUB SOUL BEACH, by visiting <http://www.soulbeach.com>. Join the Soul Beach Music Festival, #SBMF19, community: follow us on Twitter and Instagram @SoulBeach-Music and become a fan of the 2019 Soul Beach Music Festival on <https://www.facebook.com/soulbeachmusic>. □





Student Affairs

By Louedska Maduro

BACK HOME

ORANJESTAD — Last year, in October 2018, I got an email from the University of Aruba congratulating me for being accepted at the University of South Carolina as an exchange student during the spring semester of January 2019 till May 2019. Looking back, I remember how nervous I was when I stepped on the plane to go to South Carolina. I just spent the last four months as an exchange student at the University of South Carolina. Now I am back home, on the island of Aruba. So, what is it like being back home? I will tell you all about it.

The last two weeks before I left South Carolina, I was very busy. I had my finals exams, so I was studying a lot. During the last two weeks, I also had to pack and make sure I had everything done before going back home. There are various procedures a student has to follow before checking out from the dorms. Moreover, I had to say goodbye to all the great friends I made there, thus I tried hanging out with them as much as possible. I tried to convince some of my friends to visit me in Aruba, so we will see how that will turn out.



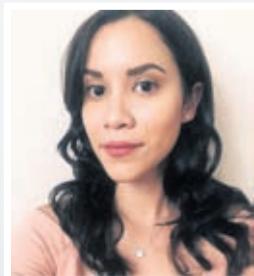
My exchange semester abroad at the University of South Carolina was a great experience. I am very glad that I decided to take the opportunity to do an exchange semester abroad and get out of my comfort zone. As I mentioned before, I am someone who is a bit afraid of change. It was my first time that I would leave the island and live alone in a whole different country and go to school at a huge university, so for me, it was a big step to take. But I am very glad I did it. I managed to learn so much, not just in the aspect of edu-

cation, but also for my personal development as well. I am grateful for that because I do see a difference in my way of thinking about certain things and it also gave me a perspective that I am sure I would have not gained if I decided to stay in Aruba instead of going on an exchange semester abroad.

Now that I am back in Aruba, it feels a bit different. The feeling is in a way, hard to describe. However, I do know that I am more open-minded to the idea of studying abroad

again. In addition, I am more welcoming towards the idea of change. Lately, I have been thinking a lot about pursuing a Master's degree abroad. I am not sure where yet, but I still have some time to think about that. Furthermore, my family is very happy that I am back home.

They were very excited to finally see me back and wanted to hear everything about my experience abroad. Stay tuned, my life as a student continues and I will share it with you from my dashi Aruba. □



Louedska Maduro, 25 years old, is currently a third-year student at the University of Aruba in the program of Organization, Governance and Management. Louedska takes part in an exchange abroad during the spring semester. She is now attending the University of South Carolina for the upcoming four months and will take this experience as her inspiration for her column Student Affairs. The column will be in the newspaper every other Thursday.

SPORTS

**APNewsBreak:**
Yanks, Red
Sox play on
artificial
turf LondonBy RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The traditional rivalry between the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox will take a radical twist when they meet in London next month: They will play on artificial turf for the first time in more than 2,200 games over a century.

Major League Baseball has access to Olympic Stadium for 21 days before the games on June 29 and 30, the sport's first regular-season contests in Europe, and just five days after to clear out. The league concluded there was not enough time to install real grass.

Starting June 6, gravel will be placed over the covering protecting West Ham's grass soccer pitch and the running track that is a legacy from the 2012 Olympics. The artificial turf baseball field, similar to modern surfaces used by a few big league clubs, will be installed atop that.

"It's the first Yankees-Red Sox game out of the country, so why not a lot of firsts?" New York pitcher CC Sabathia said. "I think it will be fine."

Instead, 141,913 square feet of FieldTurf Vertex will be transported by truck starting June 4 from the company's plant in Auchel, France, a little over 150 miles (240 kilometers) to a storage facility outside London, according to Murray Cook, the sport's field consultant.

Clay for the pitcher's mound and home plate area comes from DuraEdge in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

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BLUES ROCK



Blues rout the Sharks to reach the Stanley Cup Finals

St. Louis Blues goaltender Jordan Binnington (50) and Robert Bortuzzo (41) celebrate after defeating the San Jose Sharks in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference final series Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in St. Louis. The Blues won 5-1 to take the series 4-2.

Associated Press
Page 20

Lowry has 25, Raptors rout Bucks 120-102 to even East finals

By IAN HARRISON

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — With a weary Kawhi Leonard fighting through fatigue, the Toronto Raptors found enough energy to pull away from the Milwaukee Bucks.

Kyle Lowry led the way. Lowry scored 25 points, Leonard had 19 and the Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks 120-102 on Tuesday night to even the Eastern Conference finals at two games apiece.

"This was one of the nights that we knew Kawhi was a little bit limited and we had to come out and be aggressive for him," Lowry said.

Leonard played 52 minutes in a double-overtime win in Game 3 on Sunday despite dealing with leg soreness. He limped away from the basket following a third-quarter dunk in Game 4, but still toughed it out for 34 minutes.

"I feel good," Leonard insisted. "I'm going to keep going and keep fighting. We have a chance to make history."

Raptors coach Nick Nurse said he's not worried about Leonard's health.

"He's certainly tired, like a lot of guys in this series are," Nurse said. "He looks OK to me. There was one time I was trying to give him an extended rest and he didn't really want it so he must be OK."

Serge Ibaka had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors, who improved to



Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) drives for the basket as Milwaukee Bucks guard Pat Connaughton (24) defends during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals, Tuesday, May 21, 2019 in Toronto.

Associated Press

7-2 at home this postseason. Reserve Norm Powell scored 18 points, and Marc Gasol had 17 points and a team-high seven assists.

"The first two games, they really brought the intensity to us," Powell said. "They really came out and were more physical, more active. We wanted to change that narrative coming home."

The home team has won all four games in the series so far. Game 5 is Thursday night in Milwaukee.

"We need to take this challenge of playing in a hostile environment," Nurse said.

"We're going into a tough,

loud place to play. Let's see if those guys can bring that same pop and focus and determination on the road."

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the top-seeded Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 30 points, but no one else had more than 11. Milwaukee lost its second straight following a six-game winning streak. It dropped consecutive games just once during the regular season, at Utah on March 2 and at Phoenix on March 4.

"This is probably the first

night defensively where I don't feel like we were close to where you need to be," coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We got punched. They played really well."

Toronto's Fred VanVleet, who missed 16 of 20 shot attempts through the first three games of the series, went 5 for 6 from the field in Game 4. He made each of his three 3-point tries and finished with 13 points.

"He needed one of those games," Lowry said. "He played well and made some great plays tonight."

Ahead 94-81 to start the fourth, the Raptors ex-

tended their lead with a 10-3 spurt, including seven points from VanVleet. Powell's fast-break layup with 8:35 left put Toronto up 104-84.

"We've got to guard better," Middleton said. "Everybody on their team, I feel like they got pretty much whatever they wanted. Everything was easy."

Antetokounmpo shot 5 for 8 in the opening frame, matching the number of made baskets he had during Game 3. However, the Bucks star went 4 for 9 the rest of the way.

Leonard and Pascal Siakam, who both played more than 50 minutes Sunday, looked sluggish in the opening half. Leonard missed the only shot he took in the second, while Siakam played fewer than three minutes in the second after picking up his third foul. Siakam had two points at halftime.

Leonard came up limping after dunking against Antetokounmpo early in the third, but remained in the game. Moments later, Siakam completed a three-point play that put Toronto up 73-60 with 8:43 left.

"We just came out in the third quarter flat," Antetokounmpo said.

Ilyasova missed a 3 with 3:50 remaining in the third that could have cut the deficit to four points. Powell replied with a 3 and, following miss by Malcolm Brogdon, Leonard drained a jumper to push Toronto's lead to 86-74. □



Toronto Raptors center Marc Gasol (33) moves the ball past Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) during the second half of Game 4 of the NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals, Tuesday, May 21, 2019 in Toronto.

Gobert, George, Antetokounmpo headline NBA All-Defensive teams

NEW YORK (AP) — Defensive Player of the Year Rudy Gobert and MVP finalists Giannis Antetokounmpo and Paul George were the leading vote-getters for the All-Defensive first team.

Boston's Marcus Smart and Milwaukee's Eric Bledsoe rounded out the first team that was announced Wednesday.

Gobert finished with 97 first-team points and 196 points, giving the Utah center his third straight first-team selection. George had 96 first-team votes and 195 points, followed by Antetokounmpo (94, 193).

Smart and Bledsoe both earned their first

All-Defensive team selections.

The second team included Golden State's Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, who earned his first selection.

They were joined by Toronto's Kawhi Leonard, Philadelphia's Joel Embiid and New Orleans guard Jrue Holiday.

The teams were selected by a panel of 100 writers and broadcasters. □

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Phelps honored for honesty on mental health, helping others

By DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — While swimming to Olympic glory, Michael Phelps found comfort in the pool and quite a bit of angst out of it.

His bout with depression reached its nadir in 2014 after a second DUI arrest. That's when the most decorated Olympian of all time checked himself into a rehabilitative center in a desperate effort to make sense of it all.

"When I was in my room and not wanting to talk to anybody for a number of days and not wanting to be alive, I wanted to see what other roads I could take to see if there was help," Phelps recalled.

The treatment he received — and continues to receive — charted his post-Olympic course.

"I know it's something that changed my life and saved my life and allowed me to be able to be where

I am today, enjoying the platform of talking about something that's so important," Phelps told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

Because he is willing to share his story of depression and raise awareness of mental health issues, Phelps was given the fifth annual Morton E. Ruderman Award in Inclusion on Tuesday night in Boston.

After participating in four Olympic Games and collecting 28 medals, including 23 gold, Phelps has dedicated his time and energy to promoting the importance of water safety and advocating for the de-stigmatization of mental health problems through the Michael Phelps Foundation.

"When I first really opened up about the struggles that I had in '15, obviously I dreamed of being able to get more publicity to this and to really share my jour-

ney and have other people share their journeys with me as well," Phelps said. "Honestly, I never thought it would be as big as this, but it's been a true dream to be able to watch the growth that mental health has taken, almost being at center stage."

To say this endeavor has been fulfilling is an understatement.

"Through this, if I can save one life, two lives, five lives, a thousand, a million, to me that's so much more important than winning a gold medal," he said.

The 33-year-old Phelps believes his bout with depression is a story that many can share, including CEOs and other retired athletes. After accomplishing every goal he set for himself, what was left to do?

"Probably my first real depression spell was after 2004, then the next big one was after 2008," he said. "When you set out to be an



In this July 12, 2017, file photo, Michael Phelps arrives at the ESPYS in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Olympian, your whole life is put on hold. All the eggs are in one basket. I would say 2004, 2008, 2012, partly after '16 (all Olympic years) I've dealt with pretty severe depression spells. I was kind of lost at that point." The Baltimore native is in a far better frame of mind now.

"To have my wife (Nicole Johnson), who's always by my side, two amazing little boys at home and a third one on the way, I'm extremely thankful of the support I've had to get me through these times," Phelps said. □

Blues beat Sharks, march on to Stanley Cup Final



Members of the St. Louis Blues celebrate after defeating the San Jose Sharks 5-1 in Game 6 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference final series Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

By STEVE OVERBEY
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Blues are marching into the Stanley Cup Final for the first time in decades. Pretty sweet moment for Vladimir Tarasenko and Co. David Perron had a goal and an assist, Jordan Binnington picked up his franchise-record 12th playoff win and the Blues eliminated the San Jose Sharks with a 5-1 win in Game 6 of the Western Conference final Tuesday night.

Tarasenko, Brayden Schenn and Tyler Bozak also scored for St. Louis, which will face the Boston Bruins for the championship. Ivan Barbashev got an empty-netter with 2:15 left, Ryan O'Reilly had three assists and Binnington stopped 25 shots. "We always believed we could do this," said Tarasenko, who had a point in every game of the series. "But it's still an unbelievable feeling."

St. Louis won three consec-

tive games to advance to the franchise's first Cup Final since 1970. That series also pitted the Blues against the Bruins.

Game 1 is Monday night in Boston.

Laura Branigan's "Gloria" blared over the speakers at the Blues' home arena after the latest victory on an improbable run from last in the NHL Jan. 3 to one of the last two teams standing. The turnaround came after Craig Berube replaced Mike Yeo as coach in November and Binnington took over as the starting goaltender in January. "We always had the talent," said Doug Armstrong, the general manager and president of hockey operations for the Blues. "But we were finding ways to lose games instead of winning them. They turned it around and just haven't stopping going."

Berube gave his team credit for working its way through a coaching change and

several months of disappointing play.

"We were trying to get on the right track," Berube said. "Once we got going in January and February, I knew we had a good hockey team. Once you get into the playoffs anything can happen — and it did."

Blues defenseman Colton Parayko said it was a matter of confidence.

"We all bought in and eventually we figured out just how good we can be," he said. "It's a tight-knit group. But that adversity, it made us work harder for each other."

San Jose played without injured forwards Joe Pavelski and Tomas Hertl and defenseman Erik Karlsson. Injury attrition played a role for the Sharks, who played seven games in each of the first two rounds.

Dylan Gambrell scored his first career goal for San Jose, which lost for the first time in five elimina-

tion games this postseason. Martin Jones made 14 stops.

St. Louis grabbed control with a fast start.

Perron tipped in Sammy Blais' shot just 92 seconds into the game. Tarasenko made it 2-0 with a well-placed wrist shot at 16:16. Tarasenko got his eighth goal of the postseason just seven seconds after San Jose forward Barclay Goodrow was sent off for tripping.

Gambrell converted a breakaway along the right wing 6:40 into the second period. Joonas Donskoi set up the play with a long stretch pass.

Gambrell's goal came just seconds after Jones stopped Pat Maroon from close range. It also stopped the Sharks' scoring drought at 99 minutes, 32 seconds. Schenn pushed the lead to 3-1 with a power-play goal 12:47 into the second. He pounced on the rebound of a shot by Alex

Pietrangelo for his first goal in 14 games.

Bozak scored on a feed from Perron in the third period for a 4-1 lead.

Binnington improved to 12-7 with his second straight strong effort. He made 21 saves in a 5-0 win in Game 4 on Sunday.

The 25-year-old Binnington stopped Evander Kane on the doorstep midway through the third. He also denied Logan Couture on a breakaway later in the period.

"It's excitement and relief," Binnington said. "We put in all the work. It's pretty special. The final minutes, counting down and how loud it was in the rink, it was a special moment."

The Sharks took a 2-1 lead in the series, but were out-scored 12-2 in losing the final three games.

"I think the two hardest, heaviest teams are in the final," San Jose coach Peter DeBoer said. "There wasn't any room out there. And when there was — Binnington made some saves."

Couture had four of the Sharks' 26 shots on goal.

"When you lose this opportunity and it gets snatched away from you it's very hard to take," Couture said. "You've got to get over it." Former Blues players Bob Plager, Brett Hull, Chris Pronger and Al MacInnis were in attendance along with numerous other former players. Plager was in tears in the locker room after the win.

NOTES: St. Louis went 0-12 in its three previous Stanley Cup appearances. ... The team that scored first won all six games. ... Referee Wes McCauley left in the first period with a lower-body injury. He was replaced by alternate Gord Dwyer. ... St. Louis D Vince Dunn missed his third consecutive game with an upper-body injury. He took a puck to the mouth in the first period of Game 3. ... St. Louis pitcher Adam Wainwright and catcher Yadier Molina attended the game after the Cardinals' matchup with Kansas City was rained out. □

Clayton Kershaw gets 8 Ks, Dodgers beat Tampa Bay 7-3

By The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Clayton Kershaw took a shutout into the seventh inning in his first start at Tropicana Field and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-3 on Tuesday night.

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner (4-0) wound up allowing two runs, six hits, one walk and had eight strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

The Dodgers, with the National League's best record at 32-17, have won six of seven. Tampa Bay dropped two games behind the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

Justin Turner, Austin Barnes, Kiki Hernandez, Corey Seager and pinch-hitter Joc Pederson had run-scoring singles for the Dodgers.

Kershaw had scattered four hits through six but was replaced by Pedro Baez with two on and one out in the seventh and Los Angeles up 6-0.

The Rays then got within 6-3 on a run-scoring single by Austin Meadows and Tommy Pham's RBI double off Scott Alexander.

Los Angeles has won 15 consecutive regular season games started by Kershaw.

ASTROS 5, WHITE SOX 1

HOUSTON (AP) — Justin Verlander took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and struck out a season-high 12 to lead Houston over Chicago.

Verlander (8-1) allowed one hit and walked one in eight innings for his fourth straight win and the seventh in eight starts. The only hit off him came when Jose Abreu sent the first pitch of his at-bat just over the wall and out of reach of a leaping Jake Marisnick in straightaway center field with one out in the seventh to cut the lead to 5-1.

Yuli Gurriel hit a solo homer off Dylan Covey (0-3) in the fourth inning to give the Astros home runs in 18 straight games, tying the second-longest streak in franchise history.

Houston, a big league-best

33-16, won for the 12th time in 13 games overall and ninth in a row over the White Sox.

Covey allowed four hits, walked four and allowed four runs in four-plus innings.

YANKEES 11, ORIOLES 4

BALTIMORE (AP) — Clint Frazier homered twice and had a career-high five RBIs, Gary Sánchez contributed a three-run drive and New York routed Baltimore.

New York made it easy for Domingo Germán (9-1) to win his sixth consecutive start and increase his major league-leading victory total. The right-hander pitched only five innings and left with a 9-3 lead.

David Hale worked the four innings to earn his first save since 2010 at Class A.

DJ LeMahieu had three hits and Sánchez finished with four RBIs for the AL East leaders, who have won seven of eight.

Sánchez got it started, hitting his second three-run homer in as many nights before David Hess (1-6) got an out.

Stevie Wilkerson hit a three-run homer for the Orioles, who have lost 10 and 12 and dropped to an AL-worst 15-33.

BLUE JAYS 10, RED SOX 3

TORONTO (AP) — Rowdy Tellez had two homers and five RBIs and Randal Grichuk also homered in Toronto's win over Boston. Toronto won for just the fifth time against Boston at Rogers Centre since the start of the 2017 season.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. returned to the Toronto lineup, going 2 for 5 with a pair of runs. Brandon Drury was 2 for 3 with three RBIs. The 10 runs tied a season high. Mitch Moreland, Rafael Devers and Jackie Bradley Jr. all had solo shots for the Red Sox.

Marcus Stroman (2-6) lasted six innings, giving up one run, five hits and a season-high six walks.

Boston's loss ended its seven-game winning streak in starts by Eduardo Rodríguez (4-3).

MARLINS 5, TIGERS 4, 11 IN-

NINGS

DETROIT (AP) — Chad Wallach hit a tiebreaking double in the 11th inning, and Miami beat Detroit.

Detroit forced extra innings by scoring two unearned runs off Miami closer Sergio Romo. The bottom of the ninth included an error, two replay reversals and the ejection of Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire.

That was the only success Detroit had against the Miami bullpen, though. Nick Anderson (1-1) struck out the side in the 10th, then closed the Tigers out in the 11th for his first career win. Wallach put the Marlins ahead in the 11th with a two-out drive to left-center field off Joe Jimenez (2-2). The Tigers have dropped seven in a row.

JaCoby Jones hit a solo homer for the Tigers in the third, but Harold Ramirez — playing his sixth major league game — answered with his solo home run an inning later.

ATHLETICS 5, INDIANS 3

CLEVELAND (AP) — Pinch-hitter Mark Canha's two-run homer off struggling Cleveland starter Trevor Bauer in the third inning sent Oakland to its fifth straight win. Canha replaced injured slugger Khris Davis and connected off Bauer (4-3). Bauer walked four, struck out five and hit three while throwing a season-high 123 pitches.

Oakland reliever Liam Hendricks (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Blake Treinen, the A's fourth reliever, worked the ninth for his ninth save in 11 tries.

Jurickson Profar homered in the eighth as Oakland improved to 7-1 against AL Central teams this season. The A's are 59-20 vs. Cleveland, Chicago, Minnesota, Detroit and Kansas City dating to Aug. 23, 2016. Francisco Lindor and Carlos Santana hit solo homers for Cleveland.

RANGERS 5, MARINERS 3

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Lance Lynn allowed two runs over seven innings and Shawn Kelley earned the



Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw pitches to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

save hours after learning that two lumps removed from his throat last week were benign as Texas beat Seattle.

Lynn (6-3) gave up five singles and one walk and had a season-high 11 strikeouts and one walk in his 200th career start. Kelley, who was activated from the 10-day injured list on Tuesday, allowed a ninth-inning homer to Omar Narváez, who had three hits, in earning his third save of the season.

The loss continued a tailspin for Seattle, which is 10-26 since a 13-2 start.

Nomar Mazara had three hits, an RBI and scored one of two runs on a sacrifice fly after initially being ruled out at the plate before a successful Texas challenge. Joey Gallo hit a two-run home run, his 15th of the season, in the eighth inning. The Rangers have won six of their last seven games to reach .500 at 23-23.

Left-hander Tommy Milone (0-1) allowed two runs on three hits in five innings in

his first major league start of the season.

TWINS 8, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Marwin Gonzalez homered and drove in three runs as Minnesota rallied past Los Angeles.

Gonzalez's two-run shot in the sixth tied the game at three. Minnesota then broke it open with four in the seventh off Luke Bard (1-2). AL batting leader Jorge Polanco and Eddie Rosario each had two hits and drove in two runs for the Twins, who have won five of six on their road trip. Luis Arraez had two hits, including his first home run in the eighth. Max Kepler also had two hits.

Minnesota's Michael Pineda (4-3) allowed three runs the first two innings but only one hit in his final four innings of work.

David Fletcher had three hits for Los Angeles, which has dropped three straight. Mike Trout hit his 11th home run, a solo shot to left in the first inning off Pineda's fastball. □

Giants score three in ninth to beat Braves 4-3

By The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Joe Panik hit a game-ending two-run single off Atlanta closer Luke Jackson with two outs in the ninth to lift San Francisco.

Brandon Crawford began the comeback with a one-out single. With two out, Kevin Pillar singled in Crawford. Pillar stole second, and moved to third on Pablo Sandoval's pinch-hit infield single. Pinch-runner Mac Williamson stole second before Panik slapped a 3-2 pitch from Jackson into right field to cap the three-run rally.

It's the fourth blown save this season for Jackson (2-1). Atlanta had won four straight against San Francisco and allowed one run in all four.

Trevor Gott (2-0) retired three batters to win.

Josh Donaldson, Nick Markakis, Ronald Acuña Jr. and Dansby Swanson had



San Francisco Giants' Joe Panik watches his two-run single in front of Atlanta Braves catcher Brian McCann during the ninth inning of a baseball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, May 21, 2019. The Giants won 4-3.

Associated Press

two hits apiece for Atlanta. Braves starter Julio Teheran struck out six and gave up three hits and one run in 5

2/3 innings.

METS 6, NATIONALS 5

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Alonso hit a long tying

homer in the eighth inning, Amed Rosario had a winning infield single with two outs in the ninth and New

York rallied from deficits three times to beat Washington.

Edwin Diaz (1-2) worked around a ninth-inning single for his first win with the Mets. Washington lost its third straight.

Mets starter Zack Wheeler gave up three runs and four hits in seven innings, while Washington's Erick Fedde allowed one run and four hits in five innings.

John Soto and Brian Dozier homered for Washington. J.D. Davis's three-run pinch homer for the Mets.

ROCKIES 5, PIRATES 0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — German Márquez struck out seven over eight dominant innings and Trevor Story hit his 11th home run as Colorado cooled off surging Pittsburgh. Márquez (5-2) gave up three hits, walked one and didn't allow a runner to third base as the Rockies snapped a four-game losing streak. □

LONDON

Continued from Page 17

Turface Athletics near Chicago provides the soil conditioner, while mound tamps, infield drags and nail drags are from Beacon Athletics in Middleton, Wisconsin. The U.S. materials, including 345 tons of dirt in 18 40-foot containers, left Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, during the third week of April and arrived on May 18 at Port of Felixstowe in Suffolk, about 95 miles (150 kilometers) from London. Fence padding was manufactured at Covermaster outside Toronto and shipped from Montreal.

"We looked really hard at doing a natural grass system," Cook said. "We're going with a synthetic system and it helps us a couple ways. It's a little more sustainable, because we're going back next year. If we went with a natural grass system, we'd have to bulldoze it all up, throw it away and then buy it again, build it all up, throw it away again."

Only three of the 30 major league teams play on artificial surfaces — Toronto, Tampa Bay and Arizona. Rogers Centre in Toronto



In this Aug. 3, 2012, file photo, Olympic Stadium is viewed during the Summer Olympics at Olympic Park in London.

Associated Press

and Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Florida, have never had grass. Arizona switched this season from grass to turf, as will Texas when its new ballpark opens next spring.

Olympic Stadium, like the regular ballparks, will have full dirt infields rather than the square dirt patches popular during artificial turf's height — there was a high of 10 synthetic fields in the major leagues from 1977-78 and again from 1982-94.

"I'm assuming it's like Toronto's or Tampa's, so it shouldn't be an issue,"

Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

Toronto has played on AstroTurf 3D Xtreme since 2016 and Tampa Bay on Shaw Sports Turf since 2017. Arizona switched from grass to Shaw Sports B1K this year, and Texas will use Shaw Sports Turf when it moves into new Globe Life Field next year.

"If we had never played on turf, it would be different, but we've played on turf," Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts said.

New York and Boston have played 2,196 times, with four more games at Yan-

kee Stadium for May 30 to June 2. New York holds a 1,191-991 edge with 14 ties, plus a 12-11 advantage in postseason matchups.

Boston is the home team for both games in London, but the Yankees and Red Sox will both wear their white home uniforms. When the Yankees last played overseas in an opening-two game series at the Tokyo Dome in 2004, New York wore home pinstripes and the Devil Rays road grays, even though Tampa Bay was the home team and batted last.

Foul poles, a batter's eye, a backstop and fencing will be erected, along with two dugouts — Red Sox on the first base side and the Yankees on third. Temporary clubhouses will be built on the warmup track under the stands — the soccer locker rooms are too small — along with batting cages. Because holes cannot be made in the running track, weights will secure the fences, similar to what was installed when the Los Angeles Dodgers and Diamondbacks played in 2014 at the Sydney Cricket Ground in Australia.

Cook helped convert The

Oval, a London cricket ground opened in 1845, for games between Boston and New York Mets minor leaguers in October 1993 — the first of two was rained out.

Olympic Stadium also will be the site of major league games in 2020 — a series between the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals is the leading candidate.

"This way we've got a synthetic turf system that's got two games on this year, two games on it next year and then the commissioner can do what he wants to do with the system, whether he wants to have another event somewhere, sell it or donate it or whatever they want to do," Cook said.

Field dimensions will be 330 feet down each foul line, but just 385 feet to center with a 16-foot wall.

"We've done all the home run trajectory studies," Cook said. "We get comparable distances."

Red Sox left fielder Andrew Benintendi figured the best way for Boston pitchers to keep the Yankees from hitting home runs. "Just got to keep the ball on the ground, I guess," he said. □



Australia's Caleb Ewan celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 11th stage of the Giro d'Italia cycling race, from Carpi to Novi Ligure, Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Ewan wins Stage 11; Conti keeps pink jersey in Giro

NOVI LIGURE, Italy (AP) — Caleb Ewan of Australia sprinted to victory on the 11th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Wednesday, while Italian cyclist Valerio Conti remained the overall leader.

Ewan, who rides for Lotto-Soudal, edged out Arnaud Demare and Pascal Ackermann in a bunch sprint at the end of the entirely flat 221-kilometer (137-mile) route from Carpi to Novi Ligure.

"My team did a great job to keep me in position in the final 30 kilometers," Ewan said.

"I think Pascal went a little bit too early. I waited, bid my time and when I felt ready I went."

It was the second victory at this year's Giro for the 24-year-old Ewan, who also won the sprint at the end of the eighth and longest stage on Saturday.

"I came here to get one win so to get two really ex-

ceeded my expectations," said Ewan, who also won one stage in 2017.

Conti remained 1 minute, 50 seconds ahead of Slovenian cyclist Primoz Roglic, who is one of the favorites, and 2:21 ahead of Nans Peters of France.

It was a second successive entirely flat route before the Giro heads into the Alps for Thursday's 12th stage. The 158-kilometer route from Cuneo to Pinerolo includes the first category one climb of this year's race, when it heads up to Montoso.

"It was a long and sunny stage. So I enjoyed it very much," Conti said. "Tomorrow it'll be harder to keep the jersey because the main climb is a hard one. But I want to keep the Maglia Rosa tomorrow also."

Conti has worn the pink jersey since finishing second on Thursday's sixth stage. The Giro finishes in Verona on June 2. □



In this Friday, April 13, 2018 file photo, Women's 800m silver medal winner Kenya's Margaret Nyairera Wambui, left, shakes hands with gold medal winner South Africa's Caster Semenya on the podium at Carrara Stadium during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, Australia.

Associated Press

Another athlete slams IAAF's rules on testosterone, refuses medication

By MUTWIRI MUTUOTA and GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Another Olympic medalist has criticized the IAAF's testosterone regulations and said she will refuse to take hormone-reducing medication.

Margaret Wambui of Kenya, who won bronze in the 800 meters behind Caster Semenya at the 2016 Olympics, said she is affected by the new rules but won't take "any type of medication" to lower her natural testosterone.

Without medication or surgery, some female runners won't be allowed to compete at anymore international meetings this season, including this year's world championships.

"It's wrong of (the) IAAF to ask us to take medicine to alter our natural body function," Wambui said Tuesday, speaking Swahili in an interview in Kenya.

She said she was unsure what side effects any medication or treatment might have on her.

The 23-year-old Wambui, the world junior champion in the 800 in 2014, compared the regulations to "losing your job."

"This ruling is very unfair," she said. "I have grown up knowing that I want to do

athletics as a career and achieve a lot through it. Why wait for me to establish myself as an 800-meter athlete then tell me that I need to take medication to compete in the same event?

"The ruling has affected me greatly because you are not sure of what to train for ... this season I was focusing on the world championships and Diamond League races but all that effort has gone to waste."

Semenya, a two-time Olympic 800-meter champion, lost her case against the IAAF at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, allowing track's governing body to implement testosterone limits in races from 400 meters to one mile.

Female athletes who have one of a specific set of conditions that cause testosterone levels higher than the typical female range now have to lower those levels to be eligible to compete at international events.

The IAAF provides three options to lower the hormone levels: Daily contraceptive pills, a monthly hormone-blocking injection or surgery.

That has been criticized as unethical by the World Medical Association, which has advised doctors not to prescribe the medica-

tion or treatment if it's not requested and there is no medical need and it's solely for athletic purposes. The contraceptive pills and hormone-blocking injections would have negative side effects.

Wambui said she received a letter from the IAAF about a week ago informing her that her testosterone levels were higher than the allowed level. Athletes wanting to compete at the world championships in Doha, Qatar, in September and October had to start lowering their testosterone by May 8 to be eligible.

"My family is very disappointed by this decision by (the) IAAF," she said. "After I received the letter I went back home and spent a week with my mother trying to make her understand what's happening."

Wambui's decision to publicly declare she is affected by the rules means all three medalists in the 800-meter race at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics have said they have a condition that causes high levels of natural testosterone.

Semenya's lawyers say they are considering that, while the South African government has announced there will be an appeal on behalf of the country's national track federation. □

Judge rules Qualcomm violated antitrust law in chip market

By TALI ARBEL and MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that Qualcomm unlawfully squeezed out cellphone chip rivals and charged excessive royalties to manufacturers such as Apple in a decision that undercuts a key part of its business.

The decision vindicates the U.S. Federal Trade Commission two years after it filed its antitrust lawsuit against the San Diego chipmaker. It's a potentially costly setback for Qualcomm, as the decision could slash its ability to extract big royalties from phone makers.

Qualcomm said Wednesday that it would appeal, suggesting the case could still take a few years to resolve.

"We strongly disagree with the judge's conclusions, her interpretation of the facts and her application of the law," Qualcomm General Counsel Don Rosenberg said in a statement.

The outcome seems likely to reduce the licensing fees paid to Qualcomm, but it's unclear if device makers will pass on any of their savings and lower their prices. The royalties represent a relatively small portion of smartphone prices that now top \$1,000 for some



In this Nov. 6, 2018 file photo, attendees look at the latest technology from Qualcomm at the China International Import Expo in Shanghai.

Associated Press

premium models.

U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, California, ruled Tuesday that Qualcomm Inc. must renegotiate licensing deals with customers. It must license its patents to rival chipmakers at fair prices and can't sign exclusive agreements that block competitors from also selling chips to smartphone makers like Apple. Qualcomm must submit to FTC monitoring for seven years.

The case has geopolitical ramifications. If Qualcomm

suffered a big hit to its profitability, that could mean less spending on research and development — a knock to an American tech icon as the U.S. embarks on a politically sensitive race with China to update to 5G, a new wireless technology.

"The Trump administration views Qualcomm as almost the crown jewel for the U.S. in terms of U.S. technology development. Similar to the way China views Huawei," said Angelo Zine, CFRA analyst. "It will be interesting to

see if this gets revisited." Qualcomm's rivals are mostly Asian companies, including Huawei, Zine said. The Trump administration has set bruising sanctions against Huawei and pushed European allies not to use the Chinese company's technology due to national-security concerns of China spying. The U.S. government is also in a spiraling trade war with China. The Trump administration's attitude to Qualcomm can be seen in a case from last year, when it blocked

a Singapore company, Broadcom, from buying Qualcomm over concerns about national security and who would dominate 5G technology.

Trade group Computer & Communications Industry Association said Tuesday's ruling was a win for wireless technology, as it would mean more competition.

Qualcomm has justified its "no license, no chips" system as a repayment system for the \$40 billion it has spent through several decades working on wireless technology essential to smartphones.

Last month Apple and Qualcomm settled a bitter financial dispute centered on some of the technology that enables iPhones to connect to the internet.

The deal requires Apple to pay Qualcomm an undisclosed amount. It also includes a six-year licensing agreement that likely involves recurring payments to the mobile chipmaker.

Apple had already lost an earlier battle with Qualcomm in March when a federal court jury in San Diego decided the iPhone maker owed Qualcomm \$31 million for infringing on three of its patents.

Qualcomm shares dropped 12% to \$68.18 in afternoon trading. □

Anti-groping smartphone app highly popular in Japan

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

TOKYO (AP) — A smart-

phone app developed by

packed rush-hour trains.



Commuters wait to get on a train at a station Wednesday, May 22, 2019, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

Japanese police is being widely downloaded by women trying to protect themselves from gropers on

The "Digi Police" app was originally issued by Tokyo police three years ago, but a function to scare off

molesters was only added a few months ago. Since then, the app has reportedly been downloaded hundreds of thousands of times — unusual for a government-developed mobile application.

Women in crowded trains and other public places in Japan often face sexual harassment, but are typically too afraid to call out for help due to a sense of embarrassment.

With the app, victims can press a "repel groper" icon to produce a written message saying "There is a groper here. Please help." With another press, the message turns red and a voice repeatedly says, "Please stop!" □

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\$15 minimum wage becomes part of 2020 presidential landscape

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI

Associated Press

From liberal firebrands Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren to moderates Joe Biden and John Hickenlooper, nearly the entire 2020 Democratic presidential field agrees that the federal minimum wage should be more than doubled, to \$15 an hour.

That near-unanimity reflects the success of an unorthodox campaign by the Service Employees International Union called the Fight for 15. It launched in 2012 to help nonunion McDonald's workers who walked off their jobs as cooks and servers agitate for a then-unthinkable \$15 minimum wage. Now, according to the National Employment Law Project, one-third of the country will have a \$15 minimum wage as gradual increases in bedrock Democratic states like California, Illinois and New York kick in over the coming years.

Ernie Tedeschi, an analyst at Evercore ISI, calculated the de facto national minimum wage at a historic high of \$12 an hour when accounting for a flurry of recent city and statewide increases. Officially, the federal minimum wage is still \$7.25 an hour.

Other than the sudden jump on wages and its hold in the Democratic primary, the Fight for 15 is also showcasing a different form of labor organizing as tradi-



This Oct. 24, 2016, file photo shows dollar bills in New York. Almost the entire 2020 Democratic presidential field has joined the labor movement driven by fast food workers to implement a federal minimum wage of \$15.

Associated Press

tional union membership has dwindled.

"The labor movement is reinventing themselves as a new civil rights movement by helping workers in ways beyond collective bargaining," said Gary Chaison, an industrial relations professor at Clark University in Massachusetts. "This may be the last national political contest for the unions. A loss means the loss of relevancy as a workplace voice, and a win means a new purpose for the unions, outside of collective bargaining."

Still, unions also need dues-paying members, and the movement is redoubling its efforts this week to pressure McDonald's into letting its workers unionize. Democratic presidential aspirants like New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee will join workers on picket lines this week, and Sanders will host a video town hall with employees of the fast-food giant who will protest outside the company's

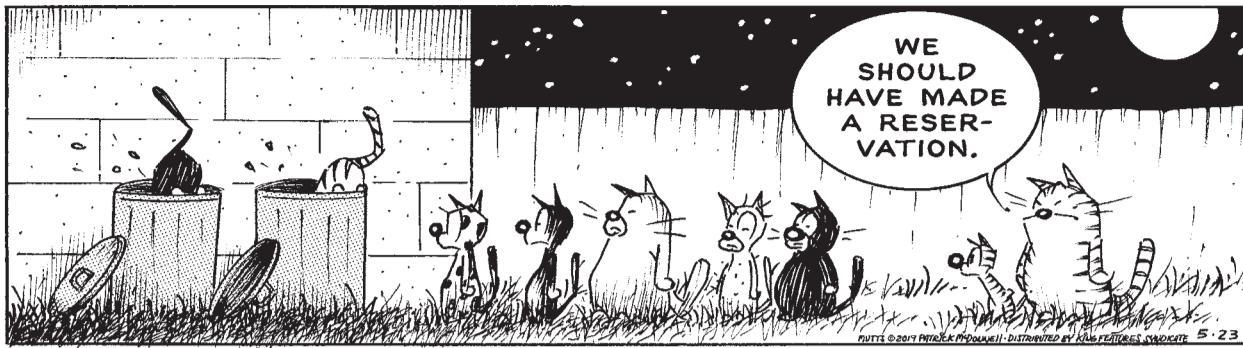
board meeting in Dallas on Thursday.

"That's the lynchpin of the thing that we're asking elected officials to respond to," said Mary Kay Henry, SEIU's president, who has been demanding that presidential aspirants also detail how they'll make it easier for workers to join unions. "We're trying to make a demand for a union about having a seat at the table that allows workers to be able to have a say in how decisions are made." That may not be easy. Mc-

Donalds has argued that whether to allow unions is a decision for the franchisees who own the restaurants and employ the workers, not for the corporation. Labor groups worry that the new Republican-appointed majority on the National Labor Relations Board will prevent unions from forcing McDonald's to bargain for those employees.

The tight job market has led some companies like Amazon and Target to offer a \$15 minimum wage. But even though the \$15 minimum wage has largely unified the Democratic presidential hopefuls — only technology entrepreneur Andrew Yang opposes it, arguing he'd rather have the government pay people directly — a bill to implement a national wage at that level is stalled in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives. Democratic moderates worry it would be an economic shock to areas that don't already have high wages. A few booming cities like Seattle and San Francisco have already hit a \$15 minimum wage, and evidence on the impact is mixed, with some studies showing that higher wages are boosting local economies but others following the traditional patterns that economists warn about with minimum wage hikes — that they can lead to fewer jobs by raising business payroll costs. □

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



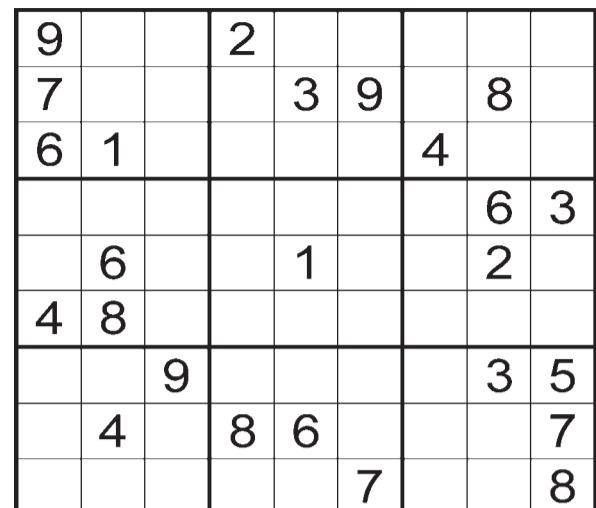
Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★

5/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	8	6	1	9	7	4	2	5
5	1	9	2	4	6	7	8	3
4	7	2	3	8	5	6	1	9
9	3	4	6	7	1	8	5	2
7	5	1	8	2	3	9	6	4
2	6	8	4	5	9	1	3	7
8	2	3	7	1	4	5	9	6
6	4	5	9	3	8	2	7	1
1	9	7	5	6	2	3	4	8

Yesterday's puzzle answer

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A crossword puzzle grid with the following words filled in:

- Across:
HOPS ASWAN GLOW
YURI LEASE LAVA
PROS MARATHONER
ESS FORD EVERETT
EARNS MAE
SACRED WALRUS
TRUCE ROOKS NAG
ARTS CANOE GAME
BOO MUSES TUTOR
WREATH BANTAM
LIE LANKA
ASPEN SONG CBS
UNIVERSITY WHOA
KATE AORTA HELM
SPAN TYSON ODDS
- Down:
PROSPECTS
FORD
EARNS
SACRED
TRUCE
ARTS
BOO
WREATH
LIE
ASPEN
UNIVERSITY
KATE
SPAN

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61 Chess piece	spite		
62 Ran fast	29 Bro and sis	42 Large bird dog	54 Prescriptions, for
63 Argument	30 First choice	44 Clothes storage	short
64 Stick around	31 More miffed	area	56 "All that
65 Ties the knot	33 Recipe verb	45 Comfy room	glitters is __
	34 Skillet	47 Irritating	gold"
DOWN		36 Mrs. Truman	48 BPOE folks
1 Nag	38 Havens	49 Cleansing bar	57 __ slow burn; get furious
2 Blue Bonnet or	39 Detest	50 Soft drink	59 __ deal; unfair
Parkay	41 Coast	53 Was dishonest	treatment

'Out of this world': Sea dragon exhibit opens in California

By JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

LA JOLLA, California (AP) —

At first glance, it looks like a branch of kelp, but then an eye moves among its leafy appendages, and ridges of tiny, translucent fins start to flutter, sending the creature gliding through the water like something from a fairy tale.

A Southern California aquarium has built what is believed to be one of the world's largest habitats for the surreal sea dragons, whose native populations off Australia are threatened by pollution, warming oceans and the illegal pet and alternative medicine trades.

The Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego hopes the exhibit, which opened this month, will lead to the leafy sea dragon, the lesser-known cousin of the seahorse, being bred for the first time in captivity.

"It literally just looked like a piece of kelp," said Steven Kowal, 25, who was visiting San Diego from Greensboro, North Carolina, and took time to see the exhibit. "It was crazy to me that it was, like, actually living and swimming around, so that's cool. I've never seen anything like that."

That's a common reaction. "They look like something out of this world," said Leslee Matsushige, the aquarium's associate curator, who noted the sea dragons' amazing ability to camouflage themselves. "When people see them



In this Friday, May 17, 2019 photo, a sea dragon swims at the Birch Aquarium at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego in San Diego.

Associated Press

move, you hear them say, 'What? That's alive? Wow! That's crazy.'

Scientists like Matsushige hope the creatures' magnetic power will prompt people to read signs next to the tanks that outline ways to protect them and what can be done to make oceans healthier, such as picking up trash and stopping pollutants from going down the drain.

Few aquariums have sea dragons. There are only two types of sea dragons, the leafy and the weedy, each representing its own genus. Both are found only in a small area of temperate waters off the southern and western coasts of Australia.

Little is known about them because their populations are so small and in remote areas. So far, only the weedy sea dragon, a bony fish that resembles seaweed when floating, has been bred in captivity, and

only a handful of times. The Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach was the first in the world to breed the weedy sea dragons in 2001. It also is trying to breed leafy sea dragons.

The Birch Aquarium's 18-foot-long (5.5-meter-long) tank has three leafy sea dragons — two males and one female — and 11 weedy sea dragons. The 5,300-gallon (20,062-liter) tank is a vast space, especially for the smaller leafy sea dragon, which grows to only about 14 inches (36 centimeters) in length. The tank has grassy plants, a sandy bottom and rocks. Scientists hope the large space will foster breeding. Sea dragons mirror each other in a courtship dance, spiraling upward before the female deposits her eggs onto a patch on the underside of the male's tail. Like seahorses, the male carries the young and gives birth. □

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Women in Difficulties
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General Info

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This picture taken on May 8, 2019, shows two newly born Chacoan peccaries in their enclosure at the Prague zoo, Czech Republic.

Associated Press

2 rare mammals, Chacoan peccaries, born in Prague zoo

PRAGUE (AP) — Prague's zoo says two Chacoan peccaries have been born there for the first time, a vital step in efforts to save an endangered species that was once considered extinct.

The Chacoan peccary is a wild pig-like mammal whose existence was described in 1930 based on fossils that dated to the Pleistocene epoch.

In the early 1970s a small population was discovered in an isolated area on the

border of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay.

Due to overhunting, deforestation and disease, the population of several thousand has been shrinking, prompting European zoos to launch a program for its survival.

So far only Berlin's Tierpark zoo has managed to regularly breed them while one was born in the Planckendael zoo in Belgium.

There are currently 37 Chacoan peccaries in seven European zoos. □

Construction workers find dinosaur fossils in Denver suburb

HIGHLANDS RANCH, Colo. (AP) — Construction workers have unearthed fossils in a Denver suburb that experts say could be from a rare horned dinosaur.

The Denver Museum of Nature and Science said Monday that it is exploring the construction site near a retirement community in Highlands Ranch where a

dinosaur's lower leg bone and several ribs were found. Fossil expert Natalie Toth told KDVR-TV the fossils could be from a torosaurus — a dinosaur similar to the triceratops but differentiated by three bones.

Toth says the fossils seem to be intact, so crews are hoping to uncover the entire dinosaur. □



Prof. Aren Maeir, from Bar Ilan University, left, raises a toast with Dr Yitzchak Paz, from the Israeli Antiquities Authority, center, and Prof. Yuval Gadot, from Tel Aviv University during a press conference in Jerusalem, Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Israeli scientists brew beer with revived ancient yeasts

By ILAN BEN ZION
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli researchers raised a glass Wednesday to celebrate a long-brewing project of making beer and mead using yeasts extracted from ancient clay vessels — some over 5,000 years old. Archaeologists and microbiologists from the Israel Antiquities Authority and four Israeli universities teamed up to study yeast colonies found in microscopic pores in pottery fragments. The shards were found at Egyptian, Philistine and Judean archaeological sites in Israel spanning from 3,000 BC to the 4th century BC.

The scientists are touting the brews made from "resurrected" yeasts as an important step in experimental archaeology, a field that seeks to reconstruct the past in order to better understand the flavor of the ancient world.

"What we discovered was that yeast can actually survive for a very, very long time without food," said Hebrew University microbiologist Michael Klutstein. "Today we are able to salvage all these living organisms that live inside the nanopores and to revive them and study their properties."

Beer was a staple of the daily diet for the people of ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. Early Egyptian texts refer to a variety of different brews, including "iron beer," "friend's beer," and "beer of the protector." The yeast samples came from nearly two dozen ceramic vessels found in excavations around the country, including a salvage dig in central Tel Aviv, a Persian-era palace in southern Jerusalem and 'En Besor, a 5,000-year-old Egyptian brewery near Israel's border with the Gaza Strip.

Other researchers of ancient beers, such as University of Pennsylvania archaeologist Patrick McGovern, have concocted drinks based on ancient recipes and residue analysis of ceramics. But the Israeli scientists say this is the first time fermented drinks have been made from revived ancient yeasts.

Aren Maeir, a Bar Ilan University archaeologist, excavates at Tel es-Safi, the biblical city of Gath, where ancient Philistine beer pots yielded yeasts used to brew a beer offered to journalists. He likened the revival of long-dormant yeast to the resurrection of

ancient beasts fictionalized in "Jurassic Park," but only to a point.

"In Jurassic Park, the dinosaurs eat the scientists," he said.

"Here, the scientists drink the dinosaurs."

"It opens up a whole new field of the possibility that perhaps other microorganisms survived as well, and you can identify foods such as cheese, wine, pickles," opening a portal into tasting cultures of the past, he said.

For this initial experiment, the team paired up with a Jerusalem craft brewer to make a basic modern-style ale using yeast extracted from the pots. The ale had a thick white head, with a caramel color and a distinctly funky nose. The mead, made using yeast extracted from a vessel found in the ruins of a palace near Jerusalem that contained honey wine roughly 2,400 years ago, was champagne bubbly and dry, with a hint of green apple.

The beer incorporates modern ingredients, like hops, that were not available in the ancient Middle East — but it's the revived yeast that provides much of the flavor. □

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Adam Driver credits the military for the courage to act

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Adam Driver was home alone doing the dishes when his agent called with the news that he'd just received a Tony Award nomination. But since his wife was out of town, there was no one to share the news. So he just finished the dishes.

Driver got the nod for his work in a new revival of Lanford Wilson's play "Burn This." It's Driver's first Tony nod and his third show on Broadway.

Over the past decade, Driver has amassed an impressive acting career, with accolades ranging from his work on the HBO series "Girls" to his more recent Oscar nomination for "BlacKkKlansman." And coming up, it's his last turn as Kylo Ren as the "Star Wars" saga comes to an end.

While the roles are diverse, the foundation for Driver's success centers on his military service. Born in San Diego but raised in the small town of Mishawaka, Indiana, Driver joined the Marines shortly after the 9/11 terror attacks and credits his time in the service for providing him the courage he needed to become an



This May 1, 2019 file photo shows Adam Driver at the 73rd annual Tony Awards "Meet the Nominees" press day event in New York.

Associated Press

actor.

"It didn't seem like a realistic job where I was from, and there wasn't really a lot of opportunities. But the military kind of stripped you away from — I think, even if it is an illusion — being scared of the civilian world," Driver said.

His time in the service helped tear down some of the inhibitions he faced when pursuing an acting

career, including relocating to New York. He told himself that if it didn't work out, he'd be OK on the streets.

"You have that kind of like survival mentality in the military. It gives you a lot of confidence going back out into the world," Driver said.

Not long after his kicking off his acting career, Driver took action to help his fel-

low military veterans with his charity, Arts in the Armed Forces. The organization is dedicated to providing arts programming for active duty service members, veterans, military support staff and their families. Those are all segments of the population that are important to him and he hates any perception that military personnel won't understand theater.

"If anything, theater in New York can get a little bit like recycled air. And it's amazing how much you take it outside of New York, the language becomes a weapon in a way to different communities," Driver said.

Theater, he added, "can help you articulate a feeling in a way that you didn't have the language for before. And what better community to share that with than the military?"

As for his performance in "Burn This," tackling a Lanford Wilson play is no easy task, made more difficult with a limited rehearsal period. In the revival of the 1987 play about a group of friends and family coping with a tragedy, Driver stars opposite Keri Russell.

"We only had like three weeks, so to be patient and trust that it would come together eventually was really difficult," Driver said. He thrives on the play being so complex. "I love the potential that it could be a disaster at any minute," Driver said. And it's that challenge that keeps him interested. "You have eight shows a week to try to keep exploring. I love that part of it," Driver said. □

In Owen Laukanen's latest, a dog unites strangers

By OLINE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

"Deception Cove," (Mulholland Books), by Owen Laukanen

It would be easy for Owen Laukanen's superb "Deception Cove" to evolve into just a dog story about the power and love of a devoted canine — and, indeed, it does include that. But "Deception Cove" also insightfully explores the recovery of former soldiers, prisoners re-entering society and how one's tough exterior can obscure fragile emotions. In "Deception Cove," second chances are granted.

Former Marine Jess Winslow came back from Afghanistan with a severe case of PTSD. While she was gone, her husband Ty drowned

while he was drunk, leaving her in debt and "not much more than bad memories and no clue what to do with herself next."

Her only salvation has been her rescue dog, Lucy, so in tune with Jess' moods that the dog can tell when Jess is about to have an attack or is having a nightmare. But now Lucy has been seized by the local sheriff's deputy Kirby Harwood, whose threats to Jess may have caused the therapy dog to attack him. The corrupt Kirby insists that Jess knows where Ty hid a package that he wants.

Jess isn't the only one concerned about Lucy. Mason Burke has one goal after finishing his prison sentence in Michigan — he wants to find out what happened

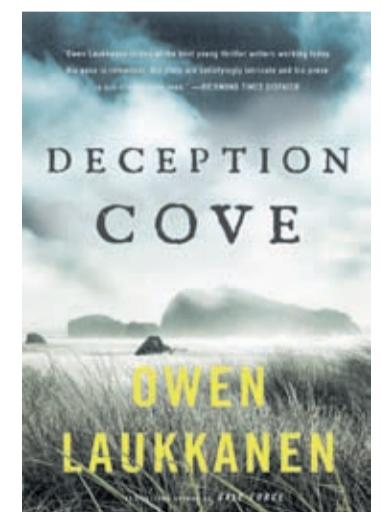
to Lucy, whom he trained while he was behind bars. As she did for Jess, Lucy gave Mason a purpose, a will to live and a comfort that he had never experienced. He only wants to know that Lucy is in good hands. But when Mason finds out she may be euthanized, he travels to Deception Cove to save the dog.

Dog lovers will want to know immediately that Lucy is not harmed and comes out all right.

Still, this launch of a new series is a first-rate thriller with plenty of action that Laukanen masterfully controls while also delving deep into the personas of Jess and Mason.

Both are fully fleshed-out characters whose strengths

and foibles are well explored. Both must find their way to re-enter society — Jess because of her PTSD and Mason because he was imprisoned for 15 years, since he was 18 years old. The author also shows the humanity of even the villains, who sometimes may have plausible, even understandable motives for their actions. Laukanen delves deep to show the bond that real therapy dogs have with people. Jess knows that "she couldn't survive without Lucy, not alone. Not for much longer, anyway." Yet, at no time does Laukanen stoop to anthropomorphism. Lucy is a dog — a great dog — but also a dog, making "Deception Cove" even more rich in its



This cover image released by Mulholland Books shows "Deception Cove" by Owen Laukanen.

Associated Press

storytelling. More visits with the characters of "Deception Cove" will be most welcomed, as will more time with Lucy. □

In the winning 'Booksmart,' a teen comedy revolution

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

The insanely winning "Booksmart" boasts too many breakthroughs to count. There are the two leads, Kaitlyn Dever and Beanie Feldstein, both of whom we've seen before but not like this. There is the director, Olivia Wilde, whose debut behind the camera is remarkably assured. And then there is the teen comedy genre, it-

self, which "Booksmart" has blown wide open.

You can tell a lot by a movie's first minutes. In "Booksmart," you know that the smile on your face isn't likely to leave from the first moment that Molly (Feldstein) is picked up by Amy (Dever) for their last day of high school. Without a beat but out of pure enthusiasm for each other, they awkwardly but confidently pop and lock their way into



This image released by Annapurna Pictures shows Beanie Feldstein, left, and Kaitlyn Dever in a scene from the film "Booksmart," directed by Olivia Wilde.

Associated Press

the street. The party that is "Booksmart" has already begun.

From "Porky's" to "American Pie," the high-school comedy has traditionally been ruled by ups and downs of male conquest. Yet that's been changing at least since "Clueless." Recently, Kelly Fremon Craig's "The Edge of Seventeen," Marielle Heller's "The Diary of a Teenage Girl" and Greta Gerwig's "Lady Bird" have pushed movies about teens in enthralling new directions, delving deeper into parenthood, friendship and the pains of coming-of-age with indelible female protagonists who exist well outside of the genre's prescribed archetypes.

"Booksmart" feels like a victory lap in that evolution. Having spent their high-school years studying and preparing to launch their ambitious lives, Molly, the class president, is headed to Yale and Amy to Columbia. With RBG and Michelle Obama photos on her wall, Molly plans to be on the Supreme Court. But when they approach who they assume to be the deadbeats of their Crockett High School in Los Angeles ready to flaunt their sterling futures, it's a rude awakening. They, too, are headed for Ivy league schools or, at worst, a primo job at

Google. "You guys don't even care about school," Molly protests. "No, we just don't only care about school," one replies. With one last night to reverse course, the two friends embark on last/first hurrah, trying to cram a year's worth of partying into one night rather than go through with their original plans for the evening: watching Ken Burns' "The Dust Bowl."

Not being pros at it, though, they spend much of the movie — penned by Susanna Fogel, Emily Halpern, Sarah Haskins and Katie Silberman — on an eventful odyssey just trying to find the popular-kids party and, hopefully, running into their long-concealed crushes: the popular vice-president Nick (Mason Gooding) for Molly; a smiley skater girl name Ryan (Victoria Ruesga) for Amy.

The plot line won't startle anyone for its originality, but its vitality will. Wilde is especially good at sketching out the girls' classmates. It's a diverse and colorful spectrum of characters, the sort of fashionable and hip kids you might see at LA's Hollywood High. Among the many standouts: Skyler Gisondo, as a rich kid without friends; Nico Hiraga as another skater kid; and Molly Gordon, whose character's reputation has

earned her the nickname Triple A, as in "roadside assistance."

It could be argued that by divesting itself of the kind of "Breakfast Club" stereotypes, "Booksmart" has sapped itself of the kind of conflict that exists in every high-school hallway. No one turns out to be so bad. It's full of that graduation feeling where old grudges slip away. Rivals become friends or even lovers.

friends, or even lovers. But from that rude awakening scene onward, Wilde's movie is about how none of the people around us are necessarily who we think they are. One after another, the movie disarms superficial assumptions. Clichés get comically stripped away and real people step forward. It's a blast.

Along the way, Wilde rides the night's ebbs and flows to the thumping score of Dan the Automator, sometimes widening the view to the larger ensemble (also here are Jessica Williams and Jason Sudeikis), but always returning to the relationship between Molly and Amy. It's a sweetly sincere bond they have, complete with their own code word. In a time of need, either can invoke their hero, the young Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, to demand the other's absolute faithfulness. □

Pitt, DiCaprio talk Tarantino's love letter to Hollywood

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

CANNES, France (AP) — Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio said they forged a "cinematic bond" making Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," while Tarantino bristled at the suggestion at the Cannes Film Festival on Wednesday that Margot Robbie's Sharon Tate isn't primary enough in the film. "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" made its splashy premiere Tuesday evening at Cannes, 25 years after Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" debuted at the French Riviera festival, where it went on to win the Palme d'Or. Tarantino's latest is about an actor (DiCaprio) in TV Westerns and his stunt double (Pitt) in 1960s Los Angeles, set against the backdrop of the Manson family murders. It's the first time DiCaprio and Pitt have made a feature together, though the two co-starred in a 2015 short directed by Martin



Actors Leonardo DiCaprio, from left, Margot Robbie, director Quentin Tarantino, actor Brad Pitt and producer David Heyman pose for photographers at the photo call for the film 'Once Upon a Time in Hollywood' at the 72nd international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, May 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Scorsese. They both suggested it might not be the last.

"There was an incredible ease and comfort getting

to work alongside Brad. We kind of grew up in the same generation, got our start around the same time," said DiCaprio. "We

together forged, hopefully, a great cinematic bond in a film about our industry together."

Pitt concurred. "It's that

thing of knowing you've got the best-of-the-best on the opposite side of the table holding up the scene with you," he said. "I hope we get to do it again."

The anticipation and glamour of "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" brought a frenzy unlike anything else has to this year's Cannes. Festival artistic director Thierry Fremaux had desperately sought its inclusion. The film was a late addition after Tarantino was able to finish post-production work in time.

The stakes have been high for Sony Pictures, which gave Tarantino a \$95 million budget to make what DiCaprio called "his love letter to the industry." On Wednesday, Sony Pictures chief Tom Rothman sat front row as Tarantino and his cast spoke to reporters. Tarantino was made a free agent in Hollywood after the downfall of his regular producer, Harvey Weinstein. □

Kenyan author, LGBT activist Binyavanga Wainaina dies at 48

By TOM ODULA
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — One of Africa's best-known authors and gay rights activists, Binyavanga Wainaina, has died at age 48, a colleague and friend said Wednesday.

The Kenyan author died Tuesday night in Nairobi after an illness, Tom Maliti, the chairman of the Kwani Trust which Wainaina founded, told The Associated Press. Wainaina, who won the 2002 Caine Prize for African Writing, was a key figure in the artistic community who promoted local authors. Friends and supporters in an outpouring of tributes on Wednesday shared his work including his biting essay "How to Write About Africa."

"Always use the word 'Africa' or 'Darkness' or 'Safari' in your title," it began. "Subtitles may include the words 'Zanzibar', 'Masai', 'Zulu', 'Zambezi', 'Congo', 'Nile', 'Big', 'Sky', 'Shadow', 'Drum', 'Sun' or 'Bygone', " Wainaina



In this Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014 file photo, prize-winning Kenyan author Binyavanga Wainaina talks during a television interview in Nairobi, Kenya.

Associated Press

advised in the piece. It quickly became one of Granta magazine's best-loved essays, the magazine said Wednesday. "As a student, he sent the magazine a strongly worded letter condemning our 1994

Africa issue," the magazine tweeted on Wednesday. "His ironic critique was so incisive and true that we published it." He became a frequent contributor. Wainaina also helped to create tolerance for the

LGBT community by coming out publicly in 2014 as gay in Kenya, a country where laws still criminalize homosexual behavior. He also revealed he was HIV-positive. He published a painfully honest essay on

line to mark his 43rd birthday.

He said he came out to help preserve his dignity. "All people have dignity. There's nobody who was born without a soul and a spirit," he said, in an interview with The Associated Press in January 2014. "There is nobody who is a beast or an animal, right? Everyone, we, we homosexuals, are people and we need our oxygen to breathe."

In the interview, Wainaina, who dyed his hair in rainbow colors, lashed out at laws against homosexuality in Nigeria and Uganda. He also criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin, who promoted legislation banning "gay propaganda" aimed at youth.

"I can't sleep at night because there are people who I may know or who I don't even know ... who may be dying or being beaten or being tortured right now in a Nigerian cell or three weeks ago in a Ugandan one," he said. □

Why Quebec endlessly beckons those on a bicycle

By CALVIN WOODWARD

Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — In Montreal each spring, an epic bicycle festival demonstrates how 25,000 people can let the good times roll without bumping into each other too much.

In Quebec City and its hinterlands, cyclists plunge into a history shaped by French explorers, the Roman Catholic Church, aboriginal culture and British conquest. In Charlevoix, an island provides a perfect loop for lovers of quiet roads and eye-candy vistas of mountains you don't have to climb.

Then there is the south shore of the St. Lawrence, where the panorama of river, sea, sky and flowers defines the magic of bicycling in Québec in ways that words cannot.

Those treats are mostly thanks to Route Verte, Québec's gift to the cycling world. It's a vast network of trails and bike-friendly byways that is about to get another growth spurt. Québec's "green way" stitches together wild places, pristine villages and a few buzzy cities in a rich, French-flavored tableau. It's the masterwork of Velo Québec, the bicycling association and Route Verte's steward.

Since 2013, I've gone to Québec each year, often several times a year, to sample more segments of the network and return to the best. Sprawling over 5,300 kilometers or



Cyclists get underway in Tour la Nuit, the annual Montreal bicycle festival's night ride, June 3, 2016. This year, on May 31, the crowd of some 10,000 will bicycle into and around Montreal's Olympic Stadium as part of the night tour.

Associated Press

3,300 miles, Route Verte is a handful to get to know, requiring more time than most people have and more legs than are under me. And the network will be undergoing its largest expansion in a decade with 900 more kilometers. Within my geographic range of experience — Montreal east to the Gaspesie region and the Eastern Townships north to a lake trail lined with wild blueberries — there are plenty of great tours. Here are some:

MONTRÉAL BIKE FESTIVAL & RAIL TRAIL

Montreal's cycling culture turns into a rolling party at the Go Bike Montreal Festival, anchored by two family-friendly rides that close downtown streets to traf-

fic and take over the city-island. The premier event, Tour de l'Île on June 2, typically draws 25,000 people on bicycles and countless more cheering them on from neighborhoods along the 50-kilometer (30-mile) route. Music, dance and acrobatics (Québec, home to Cirque du Soleil, specializes in the circus arts) are part of the mix.

Before the Sunday ride comes Tour la Nuit, which launches some 10,000 cyclists at sunset May 31. This year, the cyclists will circle inside Montreal's Olympic Stadium for the first time since "Chariots of Fire" greeted their arrival in the 1980s. "It's the wow moment for Tour La Nuit," says Joelle Sevigny of Velo Québec.

Nearby, the offroad P'tit Train du Nord rail trail runs 230 kilometers (140 miles) between the Montreal outskirts and Mont-Laurier on Route Verte #2. About half paved, half smooth crushed stone, the "little train of the north" trail offers well-spaced amenities, intriguing inns and a shuttle service.

THE BLUEBERRY TRAIL

Véloroute des Bleuets circles Lac Saint-Jean, a lake so big it resembles the sea. In late summer it makes good on its promise of wild blueberries for trailside scavenging. The lake circuit runs for 256 kilometers (160

miles) on trails, quiet roads, village pathways and occasional paved shoulders. Signed as Route Verte #8, it meets the standards that are the hallmark of all designated routes in the network: Inns with Route Verte accreditation must offer healthy food choices, safe storage for bikes and tools while campgrounds must make room for cyclists even if full.

The route perfectly suits self-supported touring. But it's also part of Velo Québec's summer extravaganza this year, the Grand Tour, a week of fully supported cycling.

QUEBEC CITY & RAIL TRAIL

Québec's historic capital, like Montreal, has extensive bicycle paths for commut-

ers and several of prime interest to visitors. Starting at the ferry terminal, the Promenade Samuel de Champlain path going west borders the waterfront for 12 kilometers, looping onto a narrow walkway on the bridge crossing the St. Lawrence and joining with another trail in Lévis. The Lévis trail offers a spectacular view of Québec City and a chance to return on the ferry, closing a 30-kilometer loop. Nature is nearby. The Jacques-Cartier trail runs more than 80 kilometers on stone dust through forest and meadow.

THE RIVER/SEA

This is where I always go back to, no matter where else I go.

On Route Verte #1, spread over more than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) cyclists can go along the south shore of the St. Lawrence for a week or more, seeing the river widen going eastward into the wild beauty of the Gaspe Peninsula until the far shore disappears and the sea, somewhere, begins.

My hotspot is a day ride from the river road at Notre-Dame-du-Portage to Kamouraska and back, about 70 kilometers in all. In this wide panorama, the sky seems always etched with drama, as stormy sheets of rain and shafts of sun sweep over the mountains on the other side, the river churns in hues of brown and blue, and mist half swallows islands. □



Cyclists on Velo Québec's Grand Tour sweep along a trail in the Eastern Townships, Aug. 1, 2015. More than 1,200 cyclists took part in the ride, which dipped into Vermont.

Associated Press



A cyclist takes in the St. Lawrence vista at Notre-Dame-du-Portage, Quebec, on Aug. 12, 2015.

Associated Press